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May 2018
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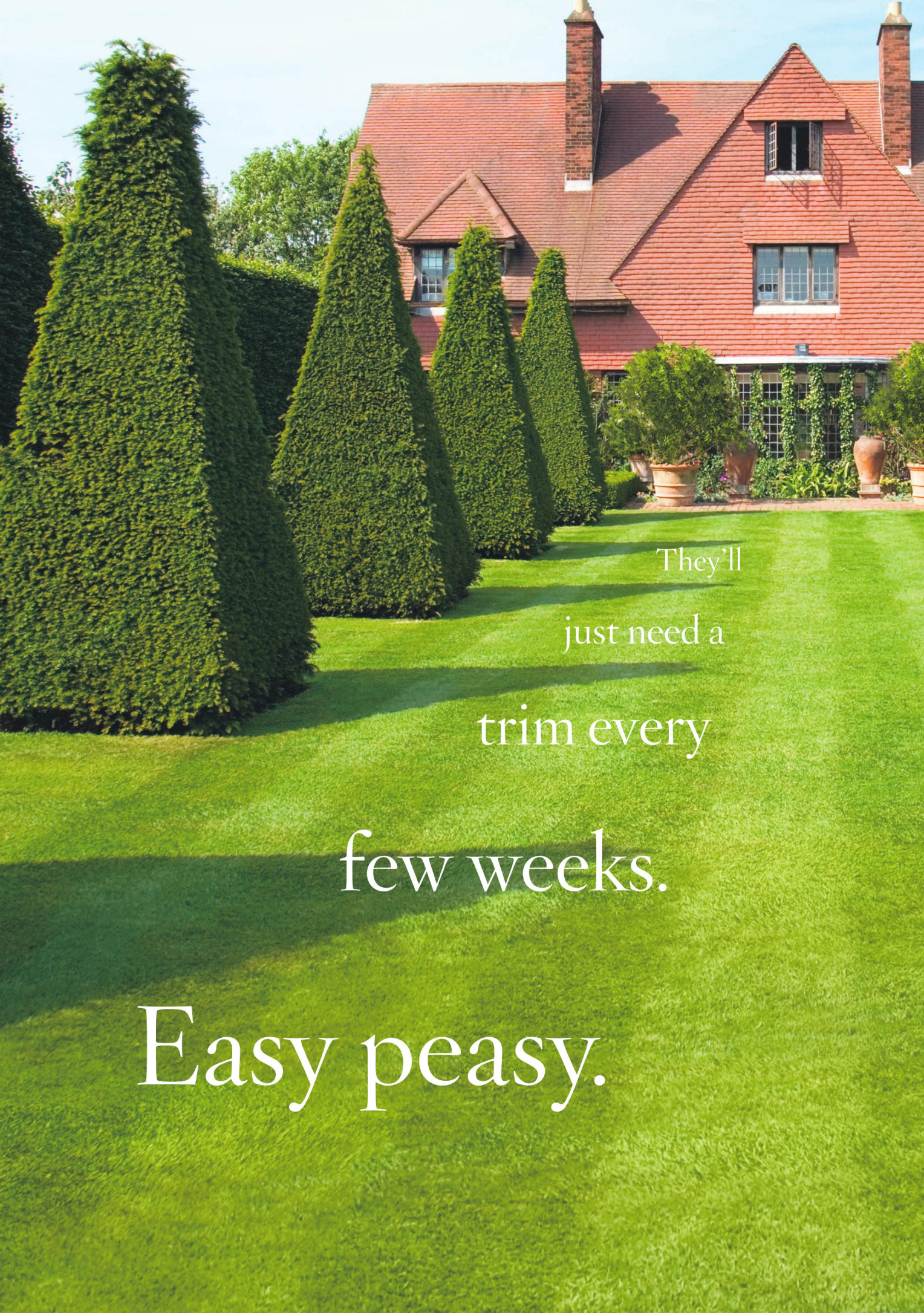
CAMERA, ACTION
Photo London takes over the city

TOKIO MYERS
The west London pianist reinventing classical music

FINE DINING
Tart London's Lucy Carr-Ellison and Jemima Jones on feeding A-list stars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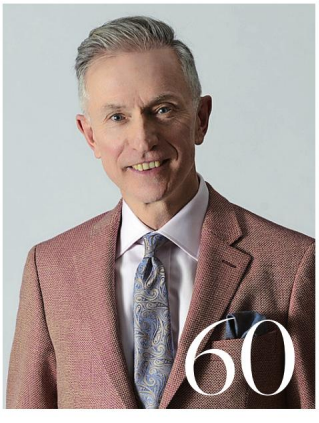

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COVER IMAGE:
TART LONDON BY LAURA EDWARDS

MAKE UP BY LISA FRANKLIN; LISAFRANKLIN.LONDON; PHOTO BY TOM DUNKLEY

MAY 2018

Letter from the EDITOR

There have been a lot of things throughout the making of this issue that have made me smile – not that it is a rare occurence. To be honest, it's a part of my job that I feel very lucky to have, as most weeks there will be many an interview that will inspire me, make me laugh, take me on a trip down memory lane, or just make me grin from ear to ear for no apparent reason.

This month has been no exception and has been a month jam-packed full of wonderful and enlightening interviews. One of which was west London's Tokio Myers. I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to chat to the ridiculously talented pianist and musician, as I've played the piano since I was tiny and find his talent particularly different and inspiring.

I have always been very musical and play a variety of different instruments and sing. But as someone who is classically trained, aside from with my singing, I found it difficult to break out from the traditions of classical music. Myers is someone who is breaking boundaries and changing perceptions of what classical music can be and I'm pleased to see so many young people inspired by his work. You can read the interview in full on page 14.

With Photo London kicking off into full swing too at Somerset House, there are plenty of works of art there that are changing things up and approaching subjects in a different way. We take a closer look on page 22.

So, as the sun has also finally decided to put its hat on and come out to play, I think we've all got plenty of reasons to feel happy and inspired this month. While there is an air of celebration surrounding this month, what with two bank holidays, one Royal Wedding and summer starting to peek through the clouds, why not grab the magazine, get yourself a glass of the nice stuff and head out into the garden to relax and read. Enjoy the issue!

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CULTURE

UNTITLED #83, HETEROTOPIA, 2018 BY KARINE LAVAL. COURTESY KARINE LAVALCRANE KALMAN BRIGHTON

PERFECTLY FRAMED

Photo London arrives at Somerset House with some wonderful work

TOKIO MYERS

The pianist talks classical music and Britain's Got Talent

LONDON IN BLOOM

It's time for the world renowned Chelsea Flower Show

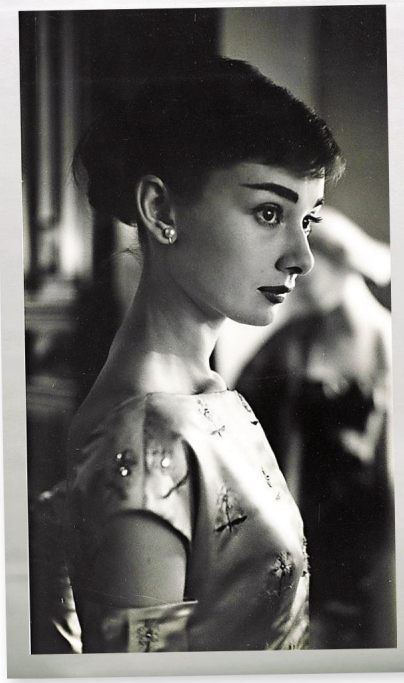
AROUND AND ABOUT

This month's finest events and new launches

Fit for a King

Offer Waterman is delighted to announce *Still is Still Moving* an exhibition of more than 20 new works on paper by celebrated British artist Tarka Kings. Kings' work has been exhibited to international acclaim at venues including the Royal Academy and Chatsworth House and is held in many private collections including Paul Allen, the Duke of Devonshire, Susanne Kapoor, Jacob Rothschild and Maggie's Centre. *Still is Still Moving* is Kings' first exhibition at Offer Waterman. Waterman opened his first gallery in Chelsea in 1996. Now based in a five-storey Georgian building in the heart of Mayfair, the gallery has developed an international reputation for its exceptional 20th Century British art.

Offer Waterman 17 St George Street, Mayfair W1S 1FJ; waterman.co.uk



ONE NOT TO MISS
LIFETIME LEGACY

Christie's online sale Audrey Hepburn: The Personal Collection Part III will open for bidding on 2 May, closing on 9 May, 2018. Comprising 212 lots, the sale is now available to view online. Following the success of Part I and II in autumn 2017, Part III continues Christie's celebration of this globally renowned and adored film and stage actress, fashion legend and humanitarian, in what would have been her 90th year. Not to be missed, the sale will provide a further opportunity for fans, collectors and admirers to delve into Hepburn's personal world, both on and off screen, through the objects she collected, used and loved; from jewellery, fashion and accessories, to correspondence, film memorabilia and professional photography by leading photographers of the day.

8 King Street, St. James's SW1Y 6QT; christies.com

Classical tales

Join one of literature's most iconic heroines on a journey of courage, romance and tragedy with Northern Ballet's adaptation of *Jane Eyre*. Based on the classical and ever-popular novel by Charlotte Brontë, Northern Ballet will bring this beautiful love story to life at London Sadler's Wells next month for the first time with performances from 15-19 May. The ultimate tale of romance, jealousy and dark secrets, *Jane Eyre* is the story of one woman's indomitable spirit overcoming all boundaries.

Rosebery Avenue, Clerkenwell EC1R 4TN; sadlerswells.com

PRIZE PHOTO

Now in its 11th year, Sony World Photography Awards is one of the world's largest and most diverse photography awards, spanning four different competitions (Professional, Open, Youth, Student Focus) and is completely free to enter. 2018 has seen record entries to the fair, with nearly 320,000 images submitted from over 200 countries and territories. This year, until 6 May, the exhibition is curated by Mike Trow, ex-Picture Editor of British Vogue, and will cover the entire ground floor exhibition space of Somerset House. This photo by Dexter Maneja is a concept expressing the dualism of existence.

worldphoto.org

GONE GIRL, 2017 GRAPHITE AND COLOUR PENCIL ON ARCHES PAPER PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN, AUDREY HEPBURN, C.1956 GELATIN SILVER PRINT 13 ½ X 9 1/8 IN. (34.3 X 23.2 CM.) ESTIMATE £500 - 800; SAXOPHONE COURTESY OF PAP 42/GETTY IMAGES; JANE EYRE COURTESY OF NORTHERN BALLET; YIN-YANG BY DEXTER MANEJA, 2ND PLACE, PHILIPPINES NATIONAL AWARD, 2018 SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

In her Prime

The Donmar Warehouse has an arresting new stage adaptation of Muriel Spark's iconic novel *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Scottish playwright David Harrower from 4 June-28 July, in the 100th anniversary year of Muriel Spark's birth. The production will star Lia Williams in the title role, with rising talent Rona Morison, alongside a cast including Nicola Coughlan, Emma Hindle, Grace Saif, Sylvestra Le Touzel, Helena Wilson, Angus Wright and Kit Young. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* will be directed by Polly Findlay, who returns to the Donmar following her acclaimed production of Limehouse.

41 Earlham Street WC2H 9LX; donmarwarehouse.com

YOUTH THEATRE

Theatre companies from the west London area will be performing a series of plays at the Bush Theatre in May as part of National Theatre Connections – a nationwide celebration of new plays for young people. National Theatre Connections is one of the UK's largest celebrations of youth theatre. Plays are commissioned for and about young people, from some of the best contemporary playwrights, and performed by schools and youth theatres all over the UK and Ireland. In 2018, National Theatre Connections is working with up to 270 youth theatres and schools to stage 10 newly commissioned plays, adding to the 160 plays the National Theatre have commissioned for young people since 1995.

7 Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's Bush W12 8LJ; bushtheatre.co.uk

MUSEUMS AT NIGHT

This May, Handel and Hendrix in London has an evening of live music, theatrical performances and interactive activities to celebrate a forgotten part of London's history for Museums at Night. The event is inspired by the annual celebration that took place near Brook Street during the 18th century. By then, it had attracted various showmen, jugglers, fencers and numerous fairground attractions, as well as a reputation for immorality and lawlessness. On the first floor, in Handel's Music Room, Baroque musicians Charles MacDougall (tenor) and Katarzyna Kowalik (harpsichord) will reveal a narrative celebrating the coming of spring using some of Handel's greatest operatic pieces. Up on the third floor, where Hendrix lived in 1969, English songstress Olivia Chaney will perform a very special acoustic set in Jimi's bedroom.

Handel & Hendrix in London, 25 Brook Street W1K 4HB; handelhendrix.org

SAX SERENADES

May 2018 sees the launch of the inaugural London Saxophone Festival, a celebration of all things sax, taking place at a range of venues across the capital. This week-long series of events will involve performances from world class musicians, workshops, film and exhibitions. The festival will feature some boundary breaking players. londonsaxophonefestival.com

TAL

ENTED SOUL

Tokio Myers is spreading his west London wings and showing the world a different side to classical music

Words BETHAN ANDREWS

Growing up in the 90s, classical music was a genre not often publicised, and certainly not marketed the same as any other genre of music. Although I spent all of my childhood years being classically trained in singing, cello and piano, I never saw a route to success that involved changing up the way in which classical music was approached.

Step forward Tokio Myers, a man who has reinvented the classical piano and shown the world, including many young children, just how cool classical music is. He might be a graduate of the Royal College of Music, but his influences from London life in all of its many forms from grit to glory can be seen seeping their way into his classical training. It was for this personal reason that I was so excited to chat to Myers, especially as he has just teamed up with medal winning athlete Jazmin Sawyers for an incredible reworking of the classic *Jerusalem* for the Official England Commonwealth Games Anthem.

Myers became known on the 2017 series of *Britain's Got Talent* where he wowed audiences with his impressive piano and drum mash ups. 'It's been a pretty full and rollercoaster of a year since winning *Britain's Got Talent*, and it has been amazing,' grins Myers. 'I've been writing and playing music pretty much all of my life. I've been saying to people that the stage that I'm at now wasn't actually something that I planned to do as a soloist. You know, I play the piano and I sing or rap, and it's difficult to be a musician on this platform and do well. The turning point happened four years ago, after having played in bands and been a session player. I decided to leave the circuit and experiment with what I could do to make it more appealing. I got a lot of gear and equipment and experimented. It has been a lifetime in the making.'

It's been a pretty full and rollercoaster of a year since winning Britain's Got Talent

A hard worker, or grafter as Myers puts it, he certainly is. I mean, just watching his performances is exhausting in itself. 'I work incredibly hard and I've got that from watching people who I've toured with like Kanye West working really hard, and seeing them in the flesh at the peak of their career almost,' says Myers. 'They have everything they want, but are completely real, literally do a two-hour set and then go off to work with artists straight after. They have the passion to keep working so who the hell am I to stop and think I've made it. I have a great team who work incredibly hard. We've just got to keep going! Having a laugh is important too, as well as working your socks off.'

Myers, whose real name is Torville Jones, released his debut album, *Our Generation*, in November with Syco Music label and, perhaps unsurprisingly after his

success on *Britain's Got Talent*, it reached number four in the album charts. 'I've got the album out now, and I've been working hard preparing for the tour,' says Myers. 'It's very exciting, but daunting at the same time. The album is so big and rich, it's a big sound but a small sound at the same time, there is an element of weight behind it that I've got to make feel as alive and genuine as possible. I'm really happy with how things are going.'

It's immediately striking when talking to Myers that he's a very humble and appreciative man. He tells me how he is continually striving to do better. 'A lot has changed and improved including the set up, visuals and what I'm doing live since the show,' says Myers. 'I'm working with visual designer guys to get content so I like to think people will turn up and think that it is better than they expected!'

I ask him how it feels to be inspiring children to view classical music in a different way and to change perceptions. 'Every single day, and I mean that, every day I get a ton of messages from kids all around the world who tell me that I'm their inspiration or that they are learning piano now,' smiles Myers. 'Every time I read that message I get really emotional, it's bigger than anything. It's not just about me and my career. There's another generation sat there looking up at me and finding it in them to write to me and create music.'

Although Myers moved out from his west London home around a year ago, he tells me how growing up there inspired him. 'I've got fond memories of my childhood, though the area has changed a lot,' he says. 'It's where I learnt a lot about myself, so I'll forever love north west London. I grew up with a lot of people in Maida Vale, so that's probably my favourite spot – it's the place that shaped me in my teens and late teens the most.'

I wonder who his influences were, growing up in west London and focusing on classical music. 'I never really idolised anyone, I loved a lot and appreciate a lot,' he says. 'I look up to a lot of people, but I would say my influences have come from the people I've met throughout my life, my friends and my family, as they are the people who shape you, who know who you are so they are my biggest inspirations.'

Myers was a pupil at the Maida Vale school where headmaster Philip Lawrence was fatally stabbed in 1995, and he was rushed to safety and away from the tragic event by his music teacher. Although Myers doesn't talk too much of that day, he shows a real commitment to both London as a whole, but especially to the west London communities that he grew up close to. This truly came to light with his role co-producing the charity single *Bridge Over Troubled Water* in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Emotion is clear in Myers' music and, certainly for me, listening to his music has an emotional impact too.

Myers with athlete Jasmin Sawyers

I wonder what is next for him. 'I'm going to the States to do some promo out there and then I've got some festivals for the summer,' he says. 'In the midst of that, I'm recording my second album straight after the tour. So come this month, I'm in the studio writing and recording and then hopefully we will do some bigger venues like the Albert Hall and Brixton Academy. It's going to be no rest until Christmas! It's going to be great, I'm looking forward to it.'

He's a talented man, and one who has the rare ability to really touch a crowd of diverse people through his talent. I can't wait to sit back and see where he goes next. r

For more information on his tour and album, visit tokiomyers.com

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Seeds OF SUCCESS

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show continues to attract thousands of visitors, but new features suggests its organisers are not resting on their laurels

Words ALEXANDER LARMAN

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show, which is returning to London from the 22-26 May, is not just one of the highlights of the city's social scene, but a global event that brings over 150,000 visitors a year to SW3. It would doubtless attract even more, but a strict pre-booking policy dictated by the limitations of the 11-acre site means that attending the event has to be limited to a lucky few, many of whom are going to be especially impressed by what the organisers have in store for 2018. As the show manager Katherine Potsides says: 'Every year is different as we welcome some of the greatest designers, plants people and floral artists who bring their creativity, ideas and inspiration to the show and set the horticultural trends for the year ahead. This year, we have made changes to the show layout and introduced a new category of gardens, Space to Grow, creating a whole new avenue of gardens with inspiration for all.'

Easigrass artificial grass structures and the tunnel installation, below

PHOTOS BY RHS/SARAH CUTTLE

Lilium 'Sunset Joy', 2017 Plant of the Year

Some of the highlights will include an emphasis on environmental issues, led by the designer Tom Stuart-Smith, who is creating 'the Weston Garden' in the Great Pavilion. Stuart-Smith, who has thrice been awarded 'Best in Show' at the Chelsea Flower Show, is celebrating 60 years of the grant-awarding Garfield Weston Foundation, and his garden will take care to only feature recycled materials and plants; this will be complemented by Kate Gould's fantasia on London, the 'West End Secret Garden', which will be celebrating Chelsea, and its environs, in garden form, using a range of environmentally positive technology in order to create a sense of 21st century London and the relationship between commerce and culture.

When you are humiliated or defeated, a garden consoles

Although the Chelsea Flower Show is often associated with splendour and fashion, this year there's much more about the ways in which social care and gardens can go together; a collaboration with the NHS to promote wellbeing has resulted in Matt Keighley's RHS Feel Good Garden, which is designed to highlight how gardens and flowers can make those who spend time around them feel happier, more productive and more engaged. It is hoped that this will offer an insight into the mental health benefits that gardening can bring, and will encourage a wide range of visitors and others to talk about issues that they themselves might have faced.

Broadcaster and gardener Monty Don, who has been involved with the project, says: 'I know from personal experience how gardening helps heal many mental and physical ills. When you are sad, a garden comforts. When you are humiliated or defeated, a garden consoles. When you are consumed by anxiety, it will soothe you, and when the world is a dark and bleak place it shines a light to guide you on.' Meanwhile, the RHS Director ▸

Silk Road Garden, Chengdu, China. Designed by: Laurie Chetwood and Patrick Collins. Sponsored by: Creativersal/ RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2017

Sue Biggs says: 'There is nothing quite like gardening to help your mind to simply think about the task in hand, be it weeding, pruning or planting. Gardeners have known about mindfulness for generations and with increased pressures through things like social media, now more than ever we need to get outside moving and loving nature to calm us, get some much needed exercise and be kind to ourselves.'

Another area in which the Chelsea Flower Show is becoming involved is in social issues, thanks to west London-based garden designer Tom Massey, making his debut appearance at the show. Massey has created 'the Lemon Tree Trust Garden', which belies its pleasant-sounding name by focusing on the rather harsher contemporary problems faced by forced migrants, specifically the Syrian refugees living in northern Iraq in the Domiz Camp. Massey's garden is designed to represent the normality and peace that many of those war-torn refugees face when they are able to connect with nature once more

As ever, there are also lighter distractions on hand. Sarah Price's M & G Garden is a Mediterranean-inspired haven that is intended to convey a sense of the beauty and wildness of the natural world; should the weather be good, it will be considerably cheaper than a Greek holiday, but just as inspiring and relaxing. Several leading nurseries including Fernatix and Hillier will be exhibiting, and those who want to let their hair down might well enjoy the inaugural 'Chelsea Late', which is taking place on Friday 25 May in Ranelagh Gardens. Details of exactly what's going to happen that night are still under wraps, but they're expected to include music, entertainment and various flower demonstrations – and we'd be surprised if it didn't include a cocktail or two as well.

This year's Chelsea Flower Show, then, promises to strike a fine balance between entertainment and education, and the lucky 150,000 attendees will have a wonderful time. As Sue Biggs says: 'It is fantastic to see the gardens at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show are reminding us all of the power of plants. They demonstrate the huge impact gardening and green spaces can have on so many aspects of our lives, whether that be at an individual level like helping to improve health and wellbeing or to mitigate against wider environmental challenges.'

It's impossible to disagree with the power of the flower. r

rhs.org.uk

Actress Judi Dench poses with the 'Dame Judi Dench' rose named after her on the David Austin Roses exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2017

Stilt walker 'Mrs Flora' poses on the Big Hedge Co. garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2017

ALSO DON'T MISS...

Chelsea In Bloom

This annual festival sees many of the shops and businesses in the area decorate their windows in suitably floral splendour. Watch out in particular for last year's winner, Hackett, and others including Smythson, Club Monaco and Kiki McDonough.

Gallery Mess

The Saatchi Gallery's restaurant will be coming up with a Flower Show-themed menu, that will include a Gardener's Tea featuring scones with rose petal jam and violet macaroons.

PHOTOS: RHS / LUKE MACGREGOR / NEIL HEPWORTH

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THE BIG PICTURE

Photo London returns to Somerset House this month with a selection of works from the brightest and best photographers out there

Words FAY WATSON

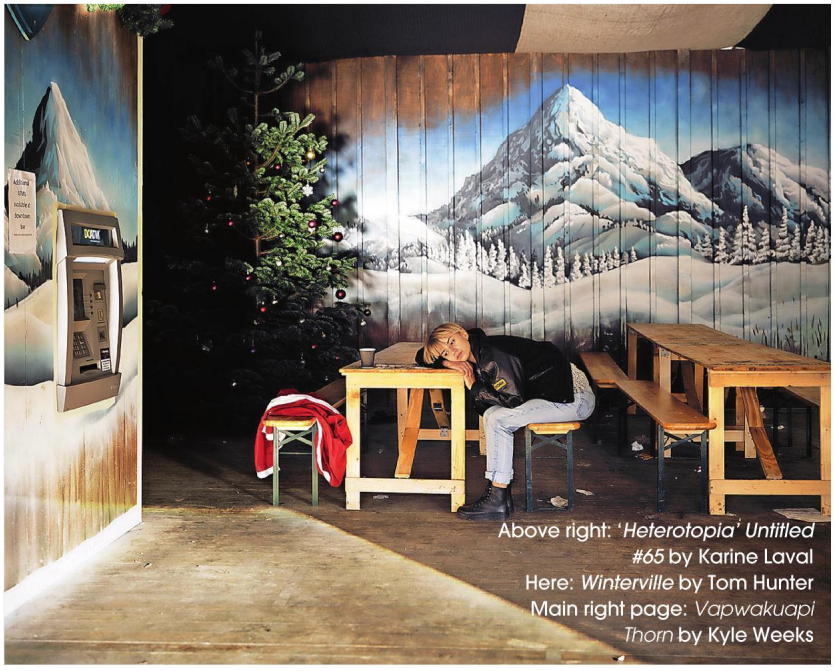
While some exhibitors bemoan the purity of photography as a singular art form, there is no doubt that it appears in various incarnations in the modern world. One fair that celebrates this in its entirety is Photo London.

The annual exhibition prides itself on its reputation as one of the world's foremost collections of innovative and classic art alike. Abstract, still life, mixed medium and restoration all make an appearance in their 2018 programme, combining works from over 100 galleries and 18 different countries at Somerset House.

'You can see a lot of things when you're there – you can see a range of different types of work and it's a really good way of seeing a lot of things in one go,' Jessa Fairbrother, one of the exhibiting artists, explains. 'It's just a really good opportunity to be part of a great show on photography.'

The Bristol-based photographer is exhibiting her photographs, *Seated Woman One* and *Seated Woman Two*, with The Photographer's Gallery at the fair. Her work is concerned with mixing photography with embroidery, often featuring herself as the subjects of her images.

'The work I make always starts from the personal and I'm really interested in being able to explore a story or a subject from a personal point of view that can extend out from me to make meaning for somebody else,' she explains. 'But I can only really do that when I start from myself and I'm in control of what I do and how I present myself and it is very performative.'



Above right: '*Heterotopia' Untitled #65* by Karine Laval
Here: *Winterville* by Tom Hunter
Main right page: *Vapwakuapi Thorn* by Kyle Weeks

After taking her images, she starts the time-consuming process of the hand-embroidering on the photos using small needles – a process that she rarely plans before she begins making her work.

'I will often respond to what's happening in front of me so it will change as I do it,' she adds. 'The real difficulty is I can't take something back, once I've made the hole I can't undo it, so that makes it quite an organic process.'

Innovative pieces of work like this really throw light on the ▸

BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO BY TOM HUNTER, COURTESY PURDY HICKS GALLERY; TOP RIGHT INSET PHOTO BY KARINE LAVAL, COURTESY CRANE KALMAN BRIGHTON; MAIN PHOTO BY KYLE WEEKS, COURTESY OFFICINE DELL'IMMAGINE

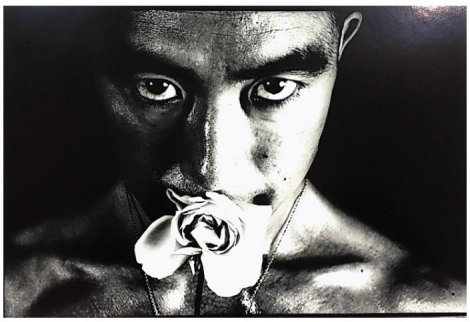
boundaries of art and photography, and indeed if any boundaries exist between them at all.

This is a question that internationally renowned Chelsea-based photographer Tessa Traeger has explored in her extensive career. Since she started photographing at just 13-years-old, she has won international acclaim for her still life and food photography, having worked on the food pages of British Vogue for 16 years as well as featuring in the National Portrait Gallery collection. She is now exhibiting with Purdy Hicks, a gallery she has been working with for over ten years.

'What's interesting about them is they don't make any distinction between photography, painting or any of the other mediums,' she tells me. 'As far as they're concerned, it's a picture and if it's interesting, it's valid. And they don't have any kind of snobbery about photography not being art or anything like that.'

The pieces she is showing at Photo London this year are slightly different to her usual work. Entitled *Distant Cousins*, they are a pair of 19th century glass negatives called ambrotypes, which Traeger has restored after inheriting them from her great uncle. The photos from 1855 were virtually destroyed when she received them, but by showing them in certain light, she was able to reveal what lay hidden beneath.

'They are actually relations of mine and it's almost as if they're staring at us from another world, from 150 years ago,' she tells me. 'They suddenly are revealed again, which is quite interesting.'

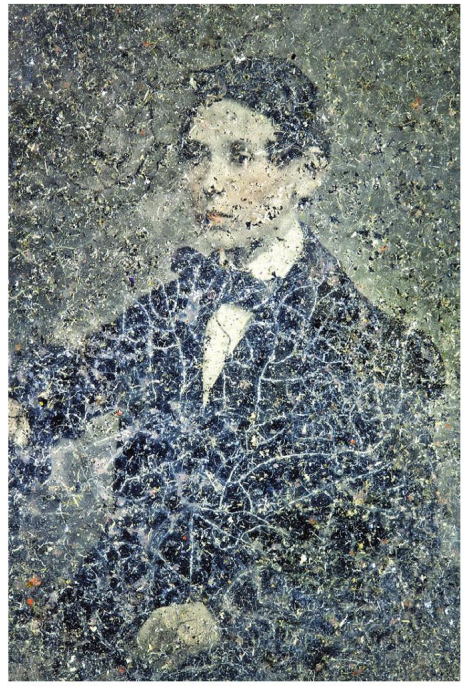


One of the most striking elements about them is the story that they tell of a time forgotten. Photography is one of the greatest mediums for this, with truly great pieces showing the most fascinating personal histories.

Hackney-based Tom Hunter, who is also exhibiting with Purdy Hicks, often depicts stories of different subjects and their localities in his work.

'London is the most important place for me,' he explains. 'My work is all very local, even if it's in the southern counties or it's in London, it's all about localities and it's all about our identity, an English identity, a London identity, a local identity. So the stories that I talk about are things that will have happened to you or to the people around you.'

Clockwise from top right: *Rose penalty - Yuki Mushima* by Eiloh Honsoe; *Nieuwe Meer - Surfplank* by Ellen Kooi; *Untitled* by Gohar Dashti; *Flux Harpsishord Concert* by Elina Brotherus



Clockwise from top left: Our life in the Shadows: Contained (Self-Portrait) by Tania Franco-Klein; Aly Dunne per Gianfranco Ferrè by Gian Paolo Barbieri; Audrey Hepburn Valentino Roma by Gian Paolo Barbieri; Chemistry of Light No. 23 by Tessa Traeger; Cala Corsara Clavarino by Massimo Vitali

Winterville, the image that Hunter is showing this year, is no exception to this. Taken at the Winterville Christmas festival in Victoria Park, east London, the striking image juxtaposes notions of the festive spirit and commercialism by showing a bar worker resting after her lengthy shift surrounded by alpine settings and an ATM.

It's this kind of work that has landed Hunter international acclaim and allowed him to show his work across countries like Sweden and America. But, he adds that the glow of showing his work in the capital hasn't worn off yet.

Hunter says: 'I always get the most excited about showing in London, but also the most nervous about showing new work because you're really putting yourself on the line and people expect you to come up with something new and exciting.'

And it seems that like fairs like Photo London are one of the best places to stay atop this cusp of artistic and photographic innovation we're experiencing in our city at the moment. r

Photo London runs from 17-20 May at Somerset House; photolondon.org

LEFT PAGE: TOP RIGHT INSET PHOTO BY EILOH HOSOE, COURTESY SEE GALLERY; BOTTOM LEFT INSET PHOTO BY ELINA BROTHERUS, COURTESY CAMERA OSCURA GALERIA DE ARTE, MADRID; BOTTOM RIGHT INSET PHOTO BY GOHAR DASHTI, COURTESY MOHSEN GALLERY; MAIN BOTTOM PHOTO BY ELLEN KOOI, COURTESY CAMERA OSCURA GALERIA DE ARTE, MADRID. THIS PAGE: BELOW LEFT IMAGE BY MASSIMO VITALI; TOP LEFT PHOTO BY TANIA FRANCO-KLEIN, COURTESY ALMANAQUE; TOP RIGHT AND BELOW RIGHT PHOTOS BY GIAN PAOLO BARBIERI, COURTESY ARTS IN PROGRESS GALLERY; BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO BY TESSA TRAEGER, COURTESY PURDY HICKS GALLERY

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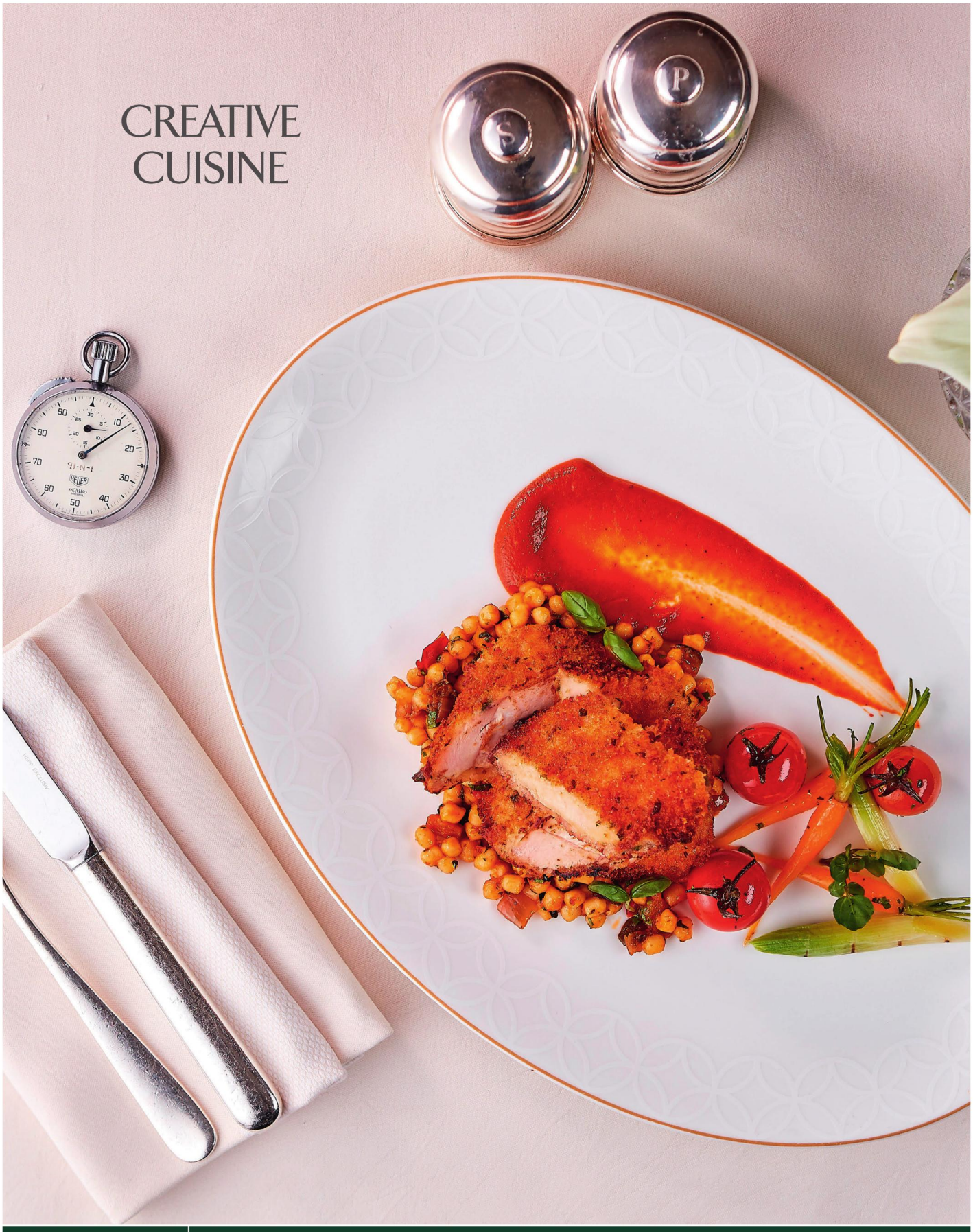

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PHOTO BY LAURA EDWARDS

TART LONDON

The foodie duo tell us all about their plans for Belgravia

A LONDON RETURN

Roganic arrives in Marylebone to rave reviews

TIME TO DINE OUT

Don't miss out on these exciting foodie plans this month

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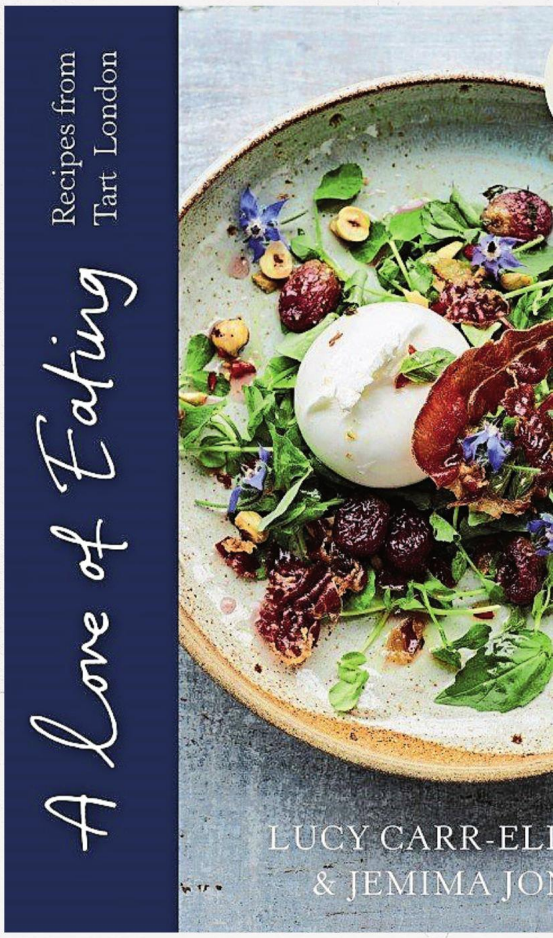
Sweet AS PIE

After making waves in the fashion world with their on-shoot catering company, 2018 sees Tart London release their first cookbook and launch a new restaurant in Belgravia

Words FAY WATSON



It's clear as soon as I start talking to Lucy Carr-Ellison and Jemima Jones that their friendship is the key to their hugely successful partnership. They complete each other's sentences and enthuse about what they each bring to the plate, if you'll pardon the pun.

It's this foundation that has helped them build the popular Tart London, a catering company and brand known throughout the fashion industry, alongside landing them their weekly gig as *Evening Standard Magazine* columnists. Now the pair have released their first cookbook *A Love of Eating* and are set to open their first restaurant in Belgravia at the end of summer.

'From day one when Jemima and I first met, we were always dreaming of having a restaurant and how it would be and we were daydreaming about how it would look,' Carr-Ellison tells me. 'Or we were saying imagine if one day we had a cookbook, but never really thinking either would come about. It's amazing, it's a dream come true.'

The friends met back in New

York in 2010 when Carr-Ellison was studying photography and Jones was interning at Vanity Fair. In their early twenties and living in Manhattan, the pair instantly bonded over a love of food. 'We were introduced by a mutual friend and became great friends, having lots of fun in New York, which feels like another lifetime ago now,' Jones laughs. 'So that's how we met – being London girls in New York.' The seeds for their catering company were sown then and there. As a former model, Jones knew the importance of having great food on shoots and while this was popular in New York, she noticed that it was also so rarely the case when she was working back in the UK.

'I was doing modelling before and we always used to talk about how dismal the food was on shoots and how surprising that was with the amount of money that got put into shoots,' she laments. 'Most of the time it would be a cold sandwich, which is very depressing after being on your feet all day.'

Thus the idea to create a catering company offering healthy and, importantly, tasty food on shoots was born. Their first big break came soon after they moved back to London when they were asked to cater for Tim Walker's *Love Magazine* shoot with Kate Moss. This led to their next few jobs and within a few years they had become the go-to caterers for photographers like Walker and clients like Stella McCartney, Gucci and Lancôme.

Given that they were working with such high-profile brands all the time, I wonder if they ever felt star struck. 'Definitely at times,' Carr-Ellison laughs. 'We're meant to be there chopping in the corner and some amazing supermodel comes in and your jaw just drops.'

Her most starstruck moment, however, was meeting Robbie Williams. 'You just suddenly turn into that ten-year-old self again, standing there and thinking "Oh my god, is that actually Robbie Williams",' she jokes. 'And he came over, and you're stuck in cement and feeling like an idiot.'

While Jones couldn't believe the time she worked with Penélope Cruz. 'Seeing her she's just such a beauty, like a lioness of a beauty,' she tells me. 'I came in to give her breakfast and she had such a big smile and really thanked me and was talking to me and I kind of blushed and didn't know where to look to as she was so beautiful.'

When working on shoots, the pair always made everything on location to make sure the food they were serving was healthy as well as delicious. This ethos is something they've really tried to bring into their first recipe book, which contains over 100 recipes.

And for Tart London, eating healthily is all about moderation, which is why you'll be pleased to see recipes for chicken burgers and white chocolate and raspberry tarts, alongside salads and vegetables.

'We don't talk about our food being healthy food, we talk about exciting food that is healthy,' Carr-Ellison explains. 'It's all about flavours, juggling it up with this or crunch or something. All of that can be achieved by it being healthy.' Jones adds: 'We think of it as the perfect one book wonder for comfort food at the end of the day, but it's also celebrating having friends over, being able to put on a good spread. We talk menu planning – we've put menus together in the past when we've been on big catering shoots and it's the same kind of mentality as when you get home and you're putting on a spread – there are certain things you want there on the table, be it variety, texture or colour.'

The new cookbook isn't the only exciting news that 2018 brings for Tart London as they'll also be opening a multi-purpose venue, incorporating a restaurant, retail space, and fashion photography studio, at the end of summer. 'It's the most amazing space,' Carr-Ellison enthuses.

'You know when you see somewhere and you just have to? You just have to go for it.' The spot will be part of Grosvenor's Eccleston Yards development in Belgravia. And, while this will be the pair's first permanent venture, they've hosted a pop-up restaurant before in Queen's Park, where Carr-Ellison lives. So do they feel a bit less daunted?

'You're never really prepared,' Carr-Ellison laughs. 'We know that this is a huge undertaking and we've got lots ahead of us, but it's really exciting and just feels the right time.' Although, I must admit that I don't doubt that this new venture will be a piece of cake (sorry) for the culinary duo. r

A Love of Eating: Recipes from Tart London is published by Square Peg, RRP £25

PHOTOS BY LAURA EDWARDS

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EAT: ROGANIC

Simon Rogan has a reputation for being a chef's chef, and it isn't hard to see why. Not for him the easy trappings of the three course a la carte, but instead Rogan offers a searching, penetrating journey into what food can (and perhaps should) taste like. If this sounds off-puttingly intellectual, rest assured that his return to London with the resurrected Roganic (after a successful two-year stint as a pop up) is something very special indeed. Superb food, excellent service and a carefully thought-out concept makes for quite the thrilling experience.

Rogan (aided here by his excellent Head Chef Oliver Marlow and peerless GM James Foster, a veteran of L'Enclume) has constructed a regularly changing menu that can be had in three forms: an abbreviated lunchtime version, a six-course tasting version and finally the full behemoth. It's worth saving one's pennies (£115 per head before wine) for the extended version, as that allows you to savour the full symphonic grandeur of Rogan's culinary art. Just as one might expect to hear recurring leitmotifs in a great opera or concert, so fascinating ideas and concepts reappear throughout the meal. Special mention must go to smoked raw beef in kohlrabi, a remarkable salt baked celeriac and burnt milk with blackcurrant and yoghurt, but to be fair there is not a duff thing on the menu.

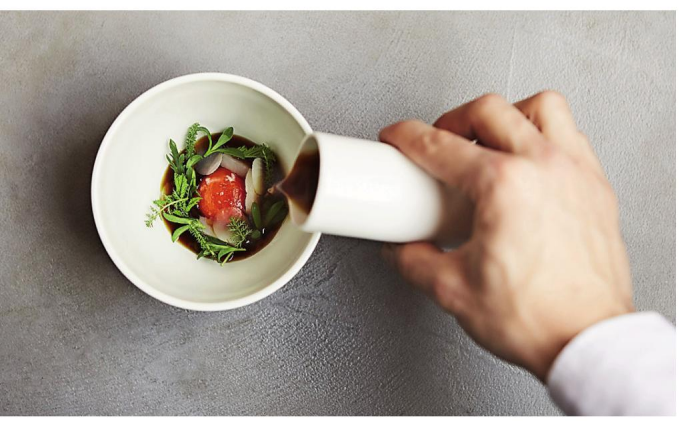
This is food as theatre, or opera, and should be regarded as such. The chefs come out bearing the food, a nice touch that makes the whole experience seem more personal, and the more than able duo of sommeliers offer some fine pairings, including a memorable Austrian natural white wine and a beefy Barolo to accompany the duck.

If you want something simple, Roganic might not be for you, but if you're excited by the possibilities of a great contemporary London restaurant, this is unmissable. r

5-7 Blandford Street W1U 3DB; 020 3370 6260; roganic.uk

RESIDENT RATING
★★★★★

WORDS: ALEXANDER LARMAN



THE QUICK LIST

Don't miss out on some of the hot new openings for this month

This spring, Executive Chef Barak Aharoni of critically acclaimed restaurant ALENA in Tel Aviv, will be crafting a menu to delight the palates of London foodies, with a five night residency at revolving creative hub Carousel. From 29 May to 2 June, Aharoni will be steering the evening kitchen of Carousel, the first chef from Tel Aviv to be invited to collaborate with the Marylebone institution.
71 Blandford Street W1U 8AB; carousel-london.com

To celebrate the betrothal of HRH Prince Harry of Wales and Meghan Markle, Prestat, chocolatier to Her Majesty The Queen, has brought back The Red Box – the legendary hallmark of Britain's best loved truffles for nearly 50 years. The Red Box has now been filled with a new generation of dark, milk and white chocolate truffles.
prestat.co.uk

In honour of The Chelsea Flower Show, Kensington-based restaurant Maggie Jones is celebrating its own floral festivity. For the duration of the week from Monday 21 May to Sunday 27 May, the British restaurant – which was named after Princess Margaret, who used to book her table under the alias Maggie Jones – is giving its menu a floral makeover by adding edible flowers to each of its dishes.
6 Old Ct Pl, Kensington W8 4PL; maggie-jones.co.uk

Pierre Marcolini has been ripping up the rule book in the world of chocolate. But for 2018, the tireless creator is returning to his first love – patisserie – the specialism in which he was crowned world champion in 1995 for his new collection. With his personal and innovative approach, he has conjured up eleven original desserts that all have one thing in common – chocolate.
37 Marylebone High Street W1U 4QF; marcolini.com

Daylesford has launched new organic loose leaf tea caddies. A tea caddy is essential to protect high quality tea from moisture and sunlight and preserves the flavours. From morning to night and for every occasion in between, there is something for every taste. These teas are carefully sourced from the finest tea gardens and artisan producers across the world.
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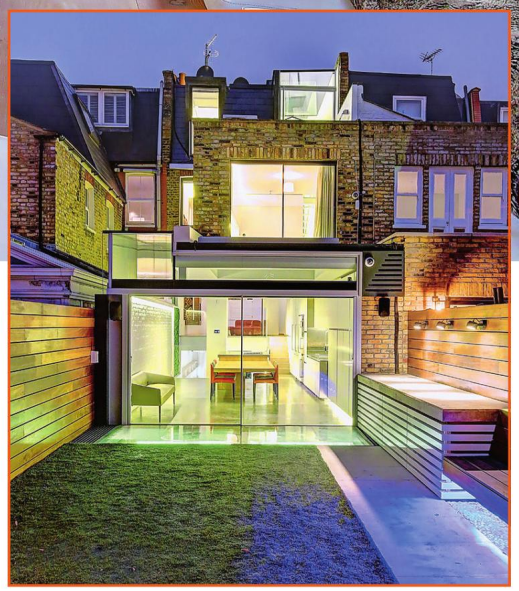

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DESIGN

PHOTO BY INGRID RASMUSSEN

PERSONAL DESIGN

Daniel Hopwood tells us about his new Bayswater studio

CHANGE OF TONE

Studio Indigo perfectly redesign a Holland Park home

THE WILD OUTDOORS

It's time to make your garden as lovely as your interiors

LAWS *of* DESIGN

Interior guru Daniel Hopwood is taking on the design of his new studio in Marylebone, and tells us what is important when it comes to laying down the law

Words EMILY MANSON

I've learnt the hard way that interior design is an underestimated skill. Like me, you may have noticed this from your own battles with home spun efforts or more entertainingly from watching car-crash designs on the compelling BBC hit *The Great Interior Design Challenge* where acclaimed London designer Daniel Hopwood is a judge.

Indeed, his chatty, laid-back demeanour might convince you still further of the ease of interior design but his great skill is in his effortless aura that transfers to the distinctive styles he creates, masking all the hard work, labour and research beneath.

In fact, it was only on the job that he realised the benefit of his degree in Architecture, Corbusian training at Westminster University and his time with the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture. 'The design process isn't just a brain wave of an idea, it's a multi-layered process that takes time and a huge amount of prep,' he explains.

His projects, of which he does around ten a year, range from single room makeovers to multi-million pound, full blown renovations that take properties back to their shell. So where does he get his distinct style and creativity from? It's based on his concept of life-enhancing intelligent design, which translates as eschewing design for design's sake. 'Everything has a reason. It's about a logical decision process rather than being emotional and it all starts with spatial layouts

The design process isn't just a brain wave of an idea, it's a multi-layered process

PHOTOS BY INGRID RASMUSSEN

and how we develop a space to solve problems,' says Hopwood. 'Going through the process of understanding and analysing what you are going to use any space for at what time of day.'

Clients' personality obviously also plays a big part. 'We spend a lot of time listening to clients, looking at how they dress, hearing stories about their lifestyle and spotting "tells", to analyse their style. And their brief can also be enlightening. One client merely told me to "reflect my masculinity and drive". It was interesting to see what masculine really looks like!' laughs Hopwood. 'But we didn't just want a binary design, so we added a pair of orange cushions on his sofa. His flat got into *GQ,* so although we ran with the brief, we pushed it a little further – it was very daring for him.'

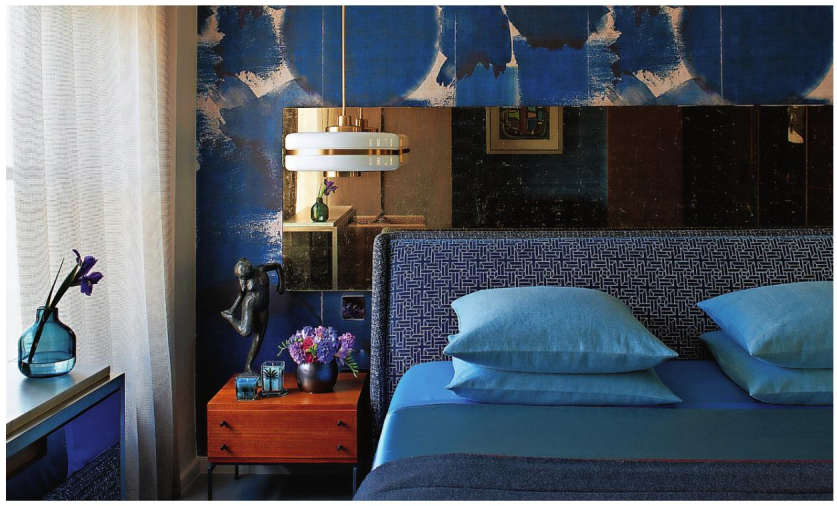
Having been in the industry for 30 years, the Yorkshire-born designer has been responsible for decorating some of London's most beautiful flats and houses. Over the years, he's seen the scene change beyond recognition, with the likes of Pinterest. 'I can lose days to it,' says Hopwood. 'If you know what you're looking for you can get some really great bargains.' And with Ikea, he tells me that it is 'an amazing phenomenon if used

The shoot of Hopwood's home was done in collaboration with TOTO as Hopwood is an ambassador for the Toto Neorest AC

carefully' – making design accessible to all.

It's something he generally sees as a good thing, but adds a note of caution. 'It's given freedom to be creative, but can make people quite lazy as it's just too easy,' he says. 'It simply goes on the credit card so we're no longer as careful about quality and longevity, which is a shame. It's the same Primark culture yet people want to be environmentally green. If you buy for life you are buying furniture sustainably.'

He's also noticed concepts like open plan living are becoming less popular. 'Every house south of the Thames has a big extension on the back, but often people don't know what to do with the middle room. People find it difficult. Dining rooms have died, and for years people were opening up the kitchen with the living room, but it doesn't work, whereas opening up the dining room with the kitchen does.'



It's obvious he still loves what he does. 'The beauty of my job is it's all about realisation,' he says. 'There's a beginning and end to each project and hopefully the end is happy smiling faces that live happily ever after. To have created that, enhanced that even and made their life good is deeply satisfying as a human being.'

He's currently designing his own new studio in Marylebone, a stunning Georgian site with fireplaces and bags of original features, but despite all his expertise and knowledge, he readily admits it's probably one of the most difficult tasks he's taken on. 'I know all the wonderful things that are out there and it's hard to analyse yourself and choose just one style,' he says. 'Also, although I don't have the same amount of money as my clients, I seem to have acquired their taste!' r

danielhopwood.com

HOPWOOD'S TOP DESIGN TIPS

- Sight lines are important. Line up doorways so the whole length of a property can be seen. Symmetry makes things easy on the eye, but you need to break that order up subtly so it remains interesting.
- Don't shop from one shop. Even all Chanel isn't cool, but it's fine to mix a little bit of Ikea.
- Change accessories seasonally.
- I love hand-made – anything that has a level of naivety or multi-layered stories is interesting. Don't try to colour match different textures.
- Don't keep all your granny's 'antiques' if you don't like/want them – it's better to sell them and buy something really special you like.
- Painting a room dark is really daring, but sets furniture off beautifully and is really effective. Dark hallways opening onto light rooms create great impact.
- Pocket sliding doors are a great asset – especially for smaller properties.
- Art should be large scale. One large painting will create a focal point, a mood, doesn't use any space up and deceives the eye to thinking the room is bigger.
- Don't be afraid to use strong colour schemes. Don't use beige!

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FEELING FAR FROM BLUE

Studio Indigo leave their clients feeling warm and content, through a combination of practicality, glamorous aesthetics and natural light

Words GEORGINA BLASKEY

When Studio Indigo were commissioned to re-design a family home in Holland Park, respecting the memories created there over the decades was paramount. 'It was a substantial property that had been extended, but as a result the house didn't have internal flow. Essentially it felt like two houses joined together – the original structure and the side extension,' explains James Kandutsch, joint managing director at Studio Indigo.

'Our brief was to improve the internal configuration and the flow. So we removed a secondary staircase and re-focused the interior on the grand staircase, thereby restoring the connection. The rear had been extended and it felt important to re-build it to create a lateral, light-filled summer dining space. Now there is light from front to rear and the residents are able to appreciate the views, which are unusual for a terrace house. The garden is unusual as well – square and lateral – it's an inner city urban oasis.'

The ground floor can be used as one space that flows or divided into a broken plan layout – so the family are able to use all parts of the house and in different ways, something they didn't do before. But the real tour de force is the grand lateral summer dining / reception room at the rear – it's a great success, says Kandutsch. Enhancing the property's natural light was a key component in creating the right environment to display the many paintings and objects the family have collected to their full potential.

'Where rooms had been sub-divided and were dark, we opened them up. Their eclectic taste made our design stronger and different pieces worked well together in natural light,' explains Kandutsch. 'We collaborated thoroughly to accommodate and showcase what they had, alongside many of the exciting features of the house. The family had travelled extensively and had a massive heritage to display. They were very supportive of our ideas and the key to the design was to maximise the beauty of their family history.'

Their furniture and objects were the starting point for the design schemes in a number of rooms and each one has a story to tell inspired by the identity and personality of the owners. For example, in the dining room, the frieze was painted decades ago and Studio Indigo contacted the artist to bring it back to life. Medallions run around the frieze with each member of the family. With a refreshed palette and with the light flooding in, it is seen better now. Blending the memories with the house and the owners, this was an important piece to restore. 'We celebrated it while building it in as a part of a new interior to enjoy,' recalls Federica Barbon, associate at Studio Indigo and interior designer on the project.

Where walls were originally quite colourful in places, now the background is neutral, light and bright, to allow the art to take its own space. The paint is Quiet White by Papers and Paints, while the hallway walls are polished plaster. 'There's a decorative mirror that was the owners, but we muted the frame to tie in better with the scheme; it helps reflect light and space into hallway,' says Barbon.

Flowing through the house is the original stone staircase and balustrade, all restored, but new crittall doors between ground-floor rooms create the open / broken plan living, bringing both light and privacy when needed. The kitchen, once dark and hidden, was relocated to a bigger room that was under-used. 'Now they have a light-filled kitchen, spacious and efficient,' smiles Barbon. 'It was made by Artichoke to a Studio Indigo design, and the ceiling was also restored and re-instated.'

Their eclectic taste made our design stronger and different pieces worked well

Furniture throughout has either been restored and restyled or it's bespoke designed with a few off-the-shelf pieces. 'The tree console table in the reception room reflects an oak leaf theme used in the house, bringing nature into the home. It was specially commissioned and made by Crucible Foundry, artists who cast in bronze,' says Barbon. 'The chandelier by Cox London was specially commissioned based on an existing design, as are the sconces on the hallway.'

The first floor is the couple's private space with a master suite tat has a dressing room and en-suite bathroom, and their own library and study, where light walls offset dramatic furniture. Their bathroom has a bespoke vanity unit, customised to a fabulous design by Studio Indigo.

'One guest bedroom has a Far East/Chinese feel with red lacquer chests, so we designed a headboard using stained glass and the same red lacquered timber, and we also used the colour scheme in the curtains – red, browns and black,' describes Barbon. In the loft, there was structural work to reconfigure walls and create a retreat space in the attic, which feels like a small apartment with wonderful views.

'The house is a great example of our approach and how we work,' explains Kandutsch. 'There are 50 full-time architects, interior designers and property managers. We love working with clients and including their character and personality – it is an intrinsic part of the process. It's rewarding all round. We have a definite approach rather than a fixed style – we're always inspired by the building and the clients and go from there.'

In this case, the house feels like it's telling the story of a family and their adventures, while maximising the potential of the property – wonderful coloration ready to home more memories. r

studioindigo.co.uk

PHOTOS BY LUKE WHITE

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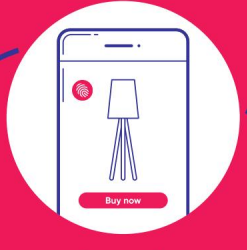

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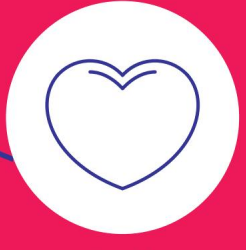

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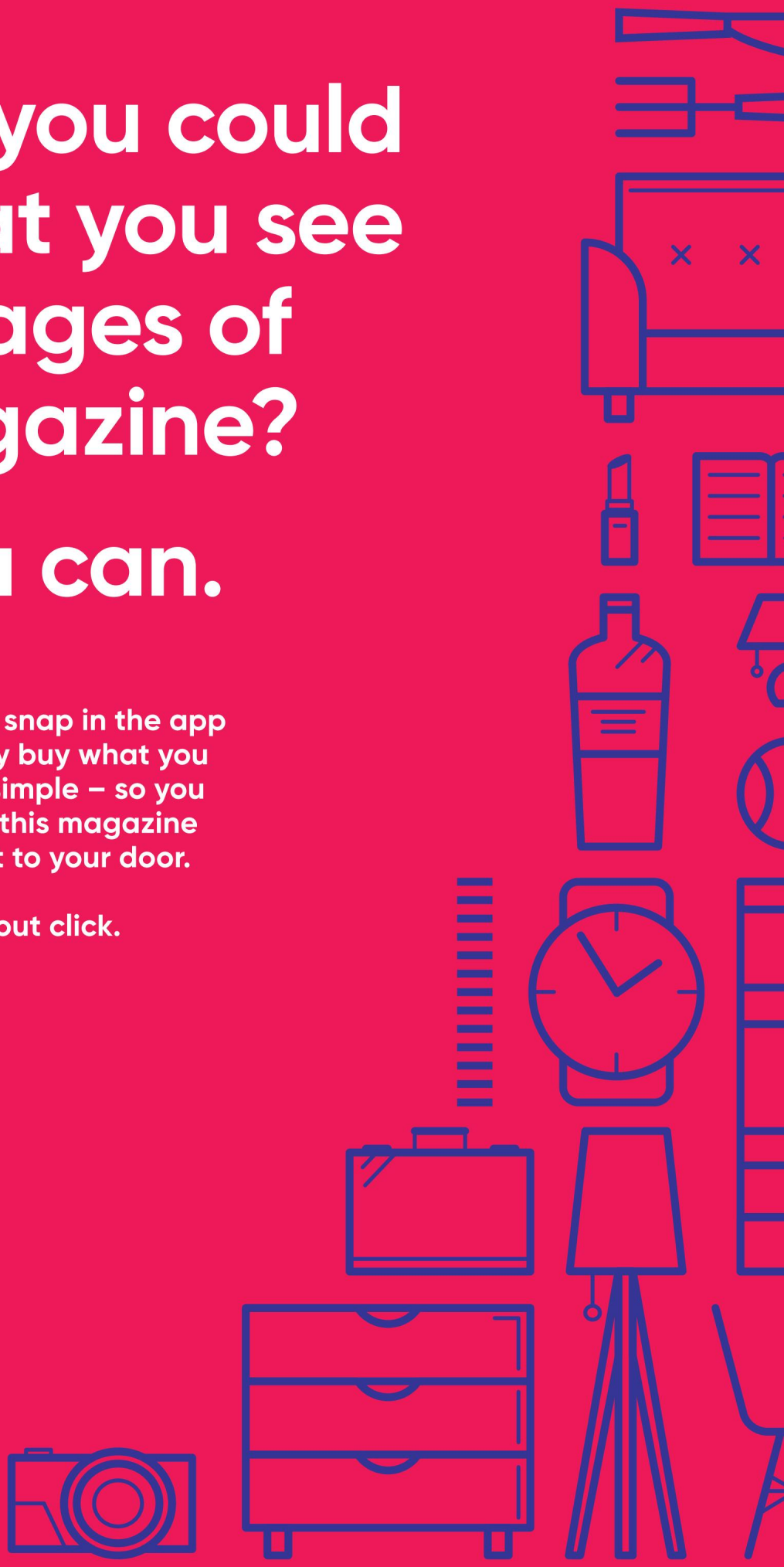

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On TREND

The latest interiors looks you'll spot in the shops this season

Story KARA O'REILLY

Nadia rattan bed, £550; Nadia rattan bedside table, £120; Terrazzo table lamp, £80; Fraser rug, £300; Tema double duvet set, £120, all habitat.co.uk

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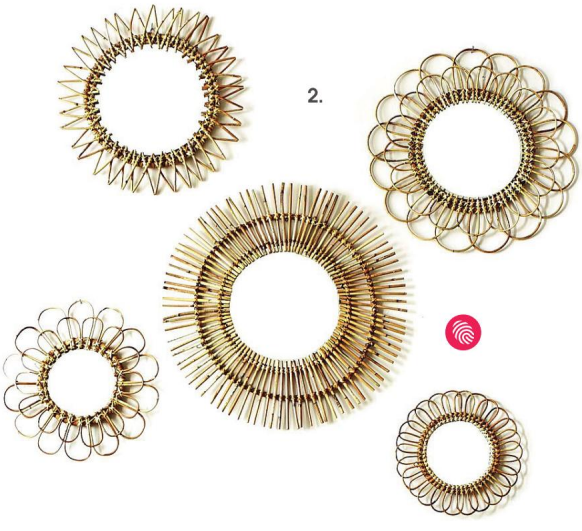

LOOK ONE

Weaving a tale

The standout material for Summer 2018 is rattan; closely followed by cane and bamboo. The mood to aim for is laidback 70s lounging.

1. Rattan and wood screen, £150, *coxandcox.co.uk* **2.** Set of 5 rattan wall mirrors, £330, *grahamandgreen.co.uk* **3.** Hanging egg chair, from £1,867, *skandium.com* **4.** Small Java shade, £49, *made.com* **5.** Asho small rattan pendant, £75, *kalinko.com* **6.** Keliko rattan bench, £170, *pib-home.co.uk* **7.** Akit rattan armchair, £395, *cuckooland.com* **8.** Round rattan coffee table, £285, *grahamandgreen.co.uk* **9.** Rattan rocking chair by Wynagene, £465, *outthereinteriors.com* **10.** Nadia dressing table and stool, £295, *habitat.co.uk* **11.** Hampstead bench in all-weather bamboo, £285, *gardentrading.co.uk*

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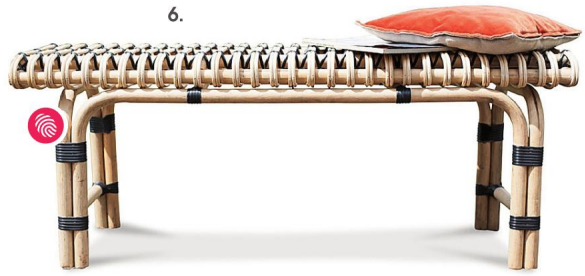

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Colombus Greek Key carpet, £29.99 per sq m, carpetright.co.uk

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LOOK TWO

Opposites attract

Think 1960s Op Art and you know what to look out for. Choose monochrome prints featuring bold, graphic shapes.

1. Pixie pendant light, £120, *debenhams.com* **2.** Jalore side table, £349, *swooneditions.com* **3.** Black and white bowl, from £10, *rockettstgeorge.co.uk* **4.** Becklen coffee table with mosaic top, £195, *habitat.co.uk* **5.** Elgin chair by Myer Halliday, £999, *heals.com* **6.** Ritual Reflect runner by Patternity, £50, *johnlewis.com* **7.** Geotile tea towel, £12, *laragorlachstudio.com* **8.** Tribalala plate Zigzag, £60, *darkroomlondon.com* **9.** Amadeus bone inlay chest of drawers, £699, *atkinandthyme.co.uk*

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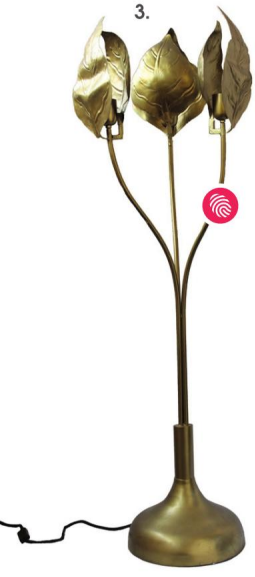

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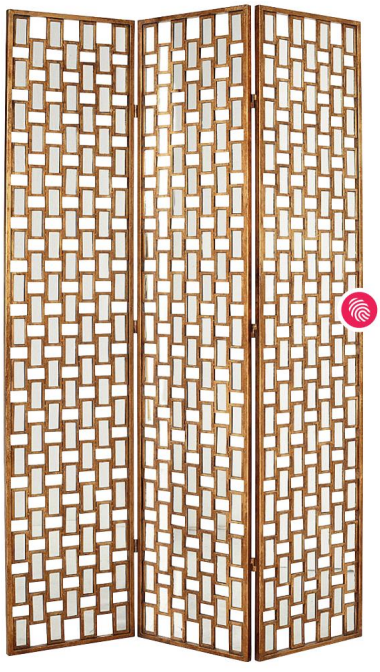

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Claudia jacquard print double duvet, £90; Claudia pillowcases, £40 per pair; Nala velvet leopard print cushion, £28; Valentina beaded cushion, £35; Lucia beaded palm cushion, £35; Shiva tiger cushion, £28; Navy velvet bedspread, £160; Charcoal geo bedspread, £160; all other accessory items, from a selection, all by Biba, all *houseoffraser.co.uk*

LOOK THREE

All out Maximalist

This is high Victoriana made modern. It's all about bold pattern, botanicals, deep colours and rich materials – brass and gold, velvet, fringing details. Remember: more is more.

1. Brass wall light with fringing, £172, *audenza.com* **2.** Etna granite side table, £179,*atkinandthyme.co.uk* **3.** Midas Forna three-leaf floor lamp, £325, *rockettstgeorge.co.uk* **4.** Lempicka mirror and antiqued gold screen, £1,265, *oka.com* **5.** Loddiges chair covered in Paradisa in spruce green, £2,995, *houseofhackney.com* **6.** Tassel cushion in Pink, £125, *onenineeightfive.co.uk* **7.** Milla velvet footstool, £207, *sophieconran.com* **8.** Ferncliff sofa covered in Amaranth in pink and juniper, £7,995, *houseofhackney.com*

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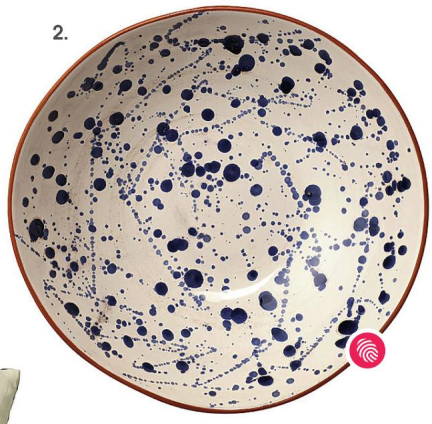

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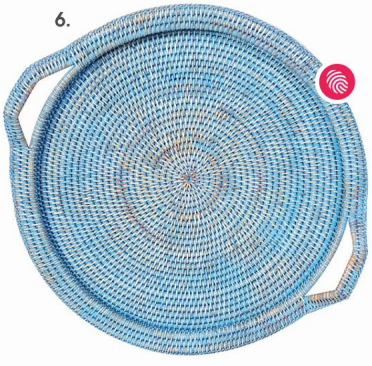

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From left: Pluto wallpaper by Mini Moderns, £55 per 10m roll; Blue rice bowl by Denby, £14; Thalassa small vessel by Voyage Elemental, £55; Cafu vase by Georg Jensen, £80; Halo ramen bowl by Denby, £18; Blue Bird 3 black framed canvas by J McKenzie, £50; Thalassa bowl by Voyage Elemental, £49; Puritan radial platter, £12, and side plate, £9; Scandi stoneware squat vase, £40, all johnlewis.com

LOOK FOUR

Summertime blues

Think washed-out linens, worn denims, faded prints and painterly effects. This is a relaxed seasonal look.

1. Watercolour vase by Broste, £20, *debenhams.com* **2.** Linea seafare serving platter, £20, *houseoffraser.co.uk* **3.** Huaca large reversible cushion cover, £78, *oka.com* **4.** Porcelain table lamp in blue by Bloomingville, £58, *outthereinteriors.com* **5.** Cotton waffle bedspread, from £55, *soakandsleep.com* **6.** Inle blue rattan tray, £42, *kalinko.com* **7.** Rick Stein Coves of Cornwall Harlyn Bay jug, £45, *johnlewis.com* **8.** Indigo bed linen, from £32 for a pair of pillowcases, Piglet *(pigletinbed.com)* **9.** Eucalyptus textured pasta bowl, £10, *murmur.co.uk* **10.** Vintage corner print rug, £99, *marksandspencer.com*

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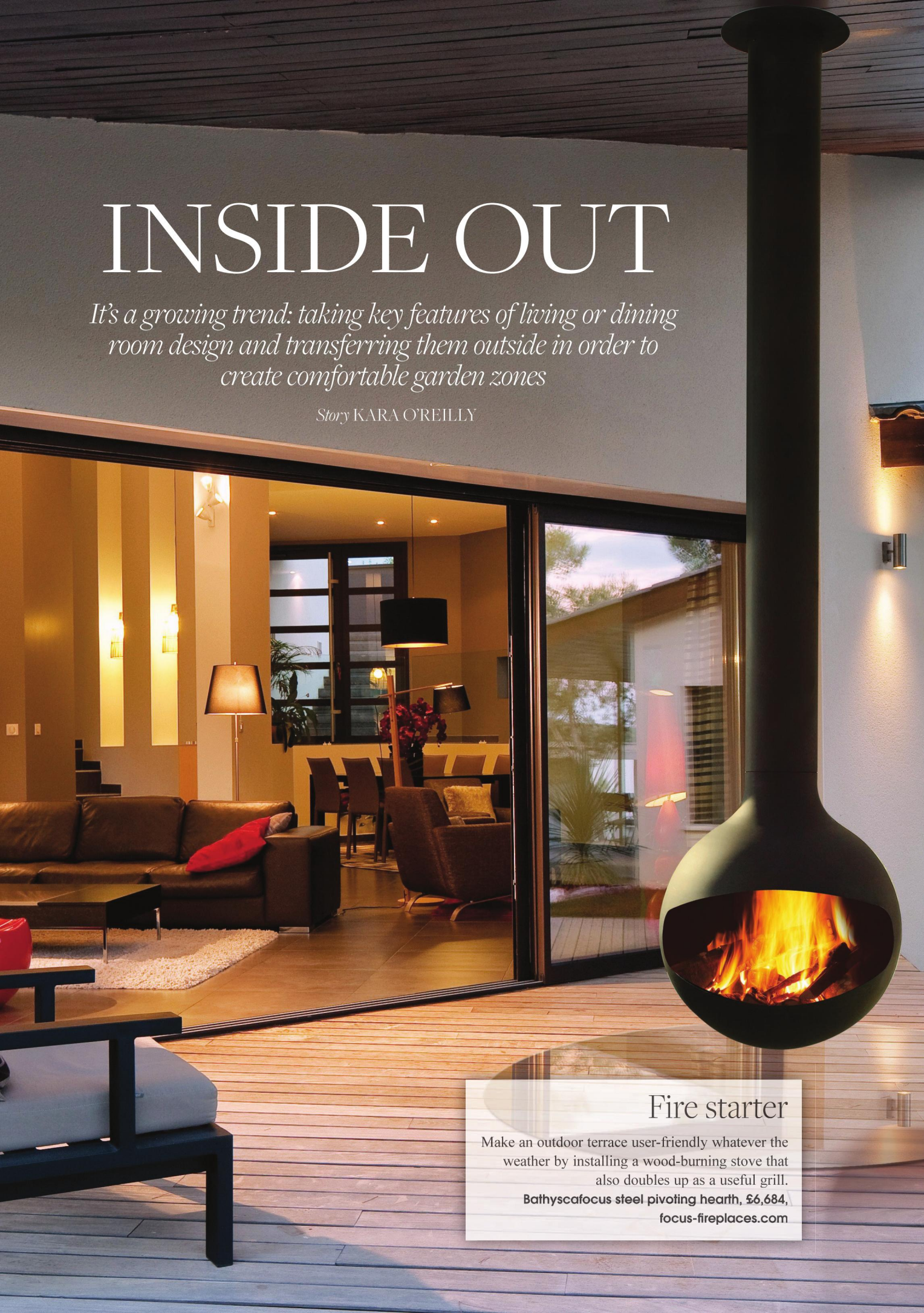
INSIDE OUT

It's a growing trend: taking key features of living or dining room design and transferring them outside in order to create comfortable garden zones

Story KARA O'REILLY



Fire starter

Make an outdoor terrace user-friendly whatever the weather by installing a wood-burning stove that also doubles up as a useful grill.

Bathyscafocus steel pivoting hearth, £6,684, focus-fireplaces.com

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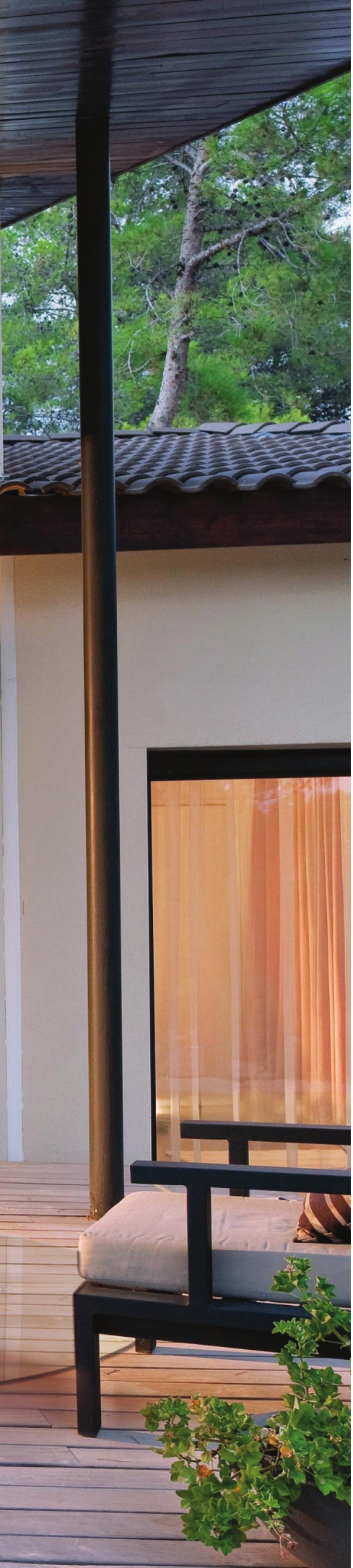


METAL WORKS

Choose powder-coated metal as your material of choice for a more modern look.

Hegoa collection by Matiere Grise, from £160, clippings.com

Hanging Out

Outdoor hanging chairs are still the must-have for all on-trend garden rooms.

Trelawney hanging pod chair, £279; Stix cushion, £20, both barkerandstonehouse.co.uk

FOCAL POINT FIREPLACE

This idea works for both large and small gardens: build in a proper working fireplace and make it the centrepiece of your outdoor living room scheme.

Bonfire bespoke outdoor fire, from £3,600 to commission, bd-designs.co.uk

Night moves

Add outdoor lights and a fire pit to make your relaxing zone work long into those summer nights…

Kajito bamboo hammock (with two covers), £499; Festoon large Squirrel lights, £70; cast-iron fire bowl, £110; vinyl mats, from £155 each, all grahamandgreen.co.uk

CHAIR PERSON

All you really need to create an outdoor living area is a comfortable chair and a useful side table. Add cushions, throws and lanterns for extra comfort.

Leia outdoor rocking chair, £299, johnlewis.com

CITY SLICK

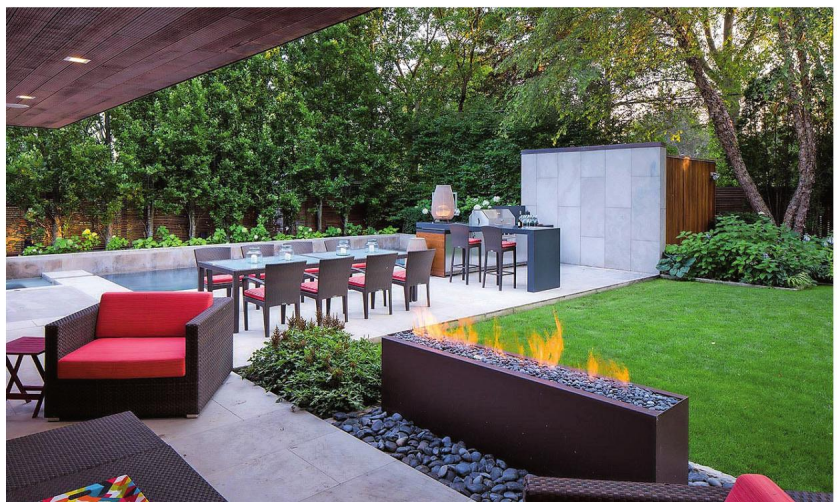
Go contemporary: choose clean lines, neat proportions and monochrome finishes for a dining set that will sit well in any city courtyard.

Becklen six-seater table with mosaic top, £295; Becklen chairs, £60 each, all habitat.co.uk

Living rooms

If you have the space, divide up your garden into different 'room' zones for everything from cooking to chilling.

Komodo 84 fire pit in bronze powder coat with dark grey river rock, from £5,100, paloform.com



English country garden

No patio or deck lending itself to a living room spot? Then simply set up your seating in the middle of your lawn.
Harrington relaxed chairs, £550 each; Harrington footstool, £180, all neptune.com

BRIGHT IDEAS

Cautious of using bold colour indoors? The garden is a great place to experiment with upliftingly vibrant furniture.
Banjooli table, £432, and Banjooli chairs, £432 each, all moroso.it

SEATING SET

Go for a classic three-piece suite look by investing in a matching set that includes sofa, armchair and coffee table.
Rimini lounge set, £995, coxandcox.co.uk

Ground force

Weather-friendly outdoor rugs and cushions are now readily available and the easy way to create a temporary lounging area.
Tarifa rug, from £169; Kasbah rug, from £138; Nomad Tarifa footstool, £187; Diamond blanket, £45; Juno and Provence cushions, from £50, all weavergreen.com

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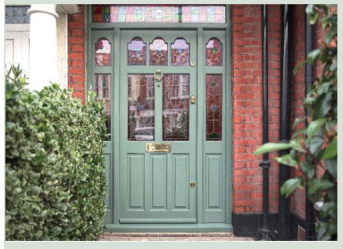

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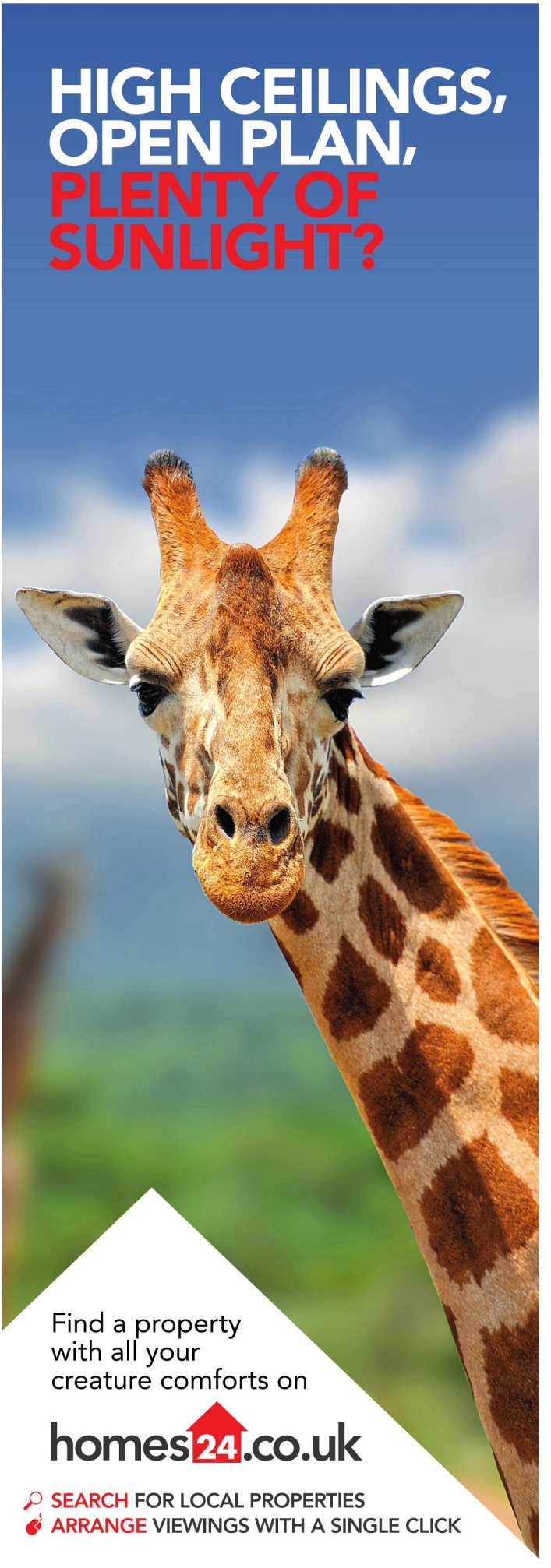

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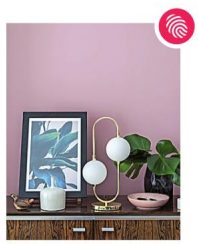
HOMES INSIDER

The latest interiors news from Kara O'Reilly

KARA'S *choice*

Lights fantastic

As long as I have worked in interiors, BHS was an insider 'secret' when it came to sourcing on-trend lighting at affordable prices, so it was with a heavy heart that I learnt of its demise… But now it's back. An entrepreneurial group of passionate individuals has taken over the brand, reviving it as BHS.com, an online retailer and with the vision to both trade on its brand heritage while firmly looking to the future. Need I tell you that its latest lighting collection is fab? While its other accessories are pretty cool too.
Prices from £20, bhs.com



Person of Interest
ABIGAIL AHERN

If you have been tempted to paint your living room black, invest in some dramatic faux plants or are veering towards contemporary maximalism, then you have felt the Abigail Ahern effect. It's safe to say that the interior designer and retailer has been one of the most prominent influencers of home trends in recent years. To date, she has expounded on her decorating style in three books, regularly runs sell-out masterclasses on design and the diffusion line she has been doing for Debenhams since 2013 has made her quirkily distinctive style available to everyone. If you want to know what our homes will be looking like in years to come, Ahern should be on your radar.
abigailahern.com; debenhams.com

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Show time

Get your planning head on; there are a couple of exciting events to head to this month. First up, London Craft Week, now in its fourth year, which is running a hugely varied programme of demonstrations, talks and exhibitions all over the capital from 9-13 May (see londoncraftweek.com for the full listings). Then, at the end of the month (22-24 May), it's Clerkenwell Design Week, a great way to get an overview of new launches straight from Milan, as well as a good excuse to get into some of Clerkenwell's quirkier historic buildings with many of them used as venues. (clerkenwelldesignweek.com for free registration and info on all the events).

Mini Trend

Big beasts in black & white

Giraffe head wall-mount, £59, audenza.com

Animal Safari table lamp, £129, rockettstgeorge.co.uk

Zebra plate from the Holly's Ark collection, £25, hollyfrean.com

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BLOSSOM COUNTRY

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SUITS YOU SIR

Why David Evans and tailor Alexandra Wood have teamed up

HISTORY LESSONS

Learn all about the First World War this month

TAILORED *to* SUIT

As top Saville Row tailor Alexandra Wood collaborates with blogger David Evans, we catch up about all things style

Words HANNAH LAWRENCE

Alexandra Wood always jokes that men's fashion moves slower than Brexit. In fact, that's what attracted one of Savile Row's award-winning bespoke tailors to the profession. 'I really like the simplicity of the suit,' she explains. 'It's much easier to design for men because they have much simpler wardrobes and I like things being quite straight.'

As she admits: 'What kind of width lapel you go for is the biggest difference.'

After 11 years running her own tailoring business at the heart of one of the world's most famous sartorial streets, Wood has just launched her first summer collection in collaboration with men's style blogger David Evans.

The collaboration is partly a response to requests from customers who wanted to find practical, no-fuss ways to dress well amid their busy jet-setting lifestyles. While the range has some exciting stand-alone pieces it was conceived as a whole collection that represents the ideal summer wardrobe for a working man. As Wood explains, the ideal summer wardrobe involves two lightweight suits, lightweight shirts made from a mix of non synthetic fibres, a couple of pairs of chinos, and a lightweight blazer.

Naturally former lawyer and star of the Grey Fox blog, Evans is the range's typical customer. Having blogged as the Grey Fox for six years and being a big advocate of British tailoring he brought his eye of colours and textures to the collaboration while Wood brought her extensive design background.

I'm always encouraging men to add more colour into their wardrobe

So, any favourites in the upcoming collection? At this question Wood gets particularly animated. Firstly, she tells me about the burnt orange sports jacket. 'I'm always encouraging men to add more colour into their wardrobe and it's such a versatile colour,' she explains.

Then, she gushes about the

FASHION IMAGES BY DOMINIC NICHOLLS; PHOTO OF ALEXANDRA WOOD BY JOHN CASSIDY

Santorini trousers. 'I love Santorini,' she explains. 'When you think of Greece you think about that amazing blue sky and the trousers are like that and they feel like it as well, they're buttery soft.'

Not bad for a woman who was told she'd 'never make it' when she first launched her own business 11 years ago. 'I was definitely told in the beginning that I'd never make it directly to my face,' she tells me. Which must make success even sweeter now? 'It's quite satisfying really,' she nods. 'I always say people can say what they like, but if your customers are happy with you and you have a really great relationship and you know you've got integrity and you're doing a really great thing, then that's what matters.'

And she certainly seems to have some happy customers. In 2016 regular Chuka Umunna was voted *GQ's* Best Dressed Man of the Year putting his long-time tailor Wood in the spotlight, although she doesn't seem too bothered by this new found fame. 'I'm usually the last to find out. I'm usually so busy working on the business that people alert me to the fact that I'm in a magazine, which is really nice,' she says.

And she does admit it 'feels good', telling me 'those things are critical for boosting my career'.

Having trained at London College of Fashion Alexandra went on to develop her trade as a bespoke

Alexandra Jones knows exactly what men want

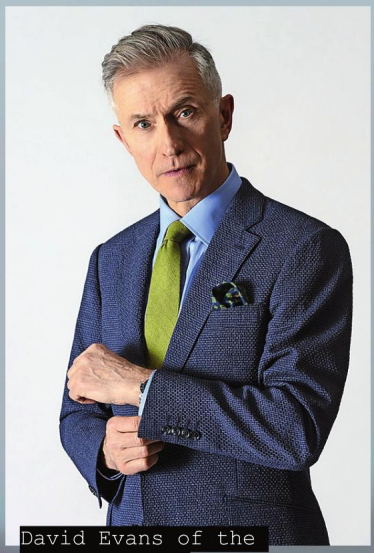
tailoring manager at international luxury brand Shanghai Tang. It was there that she 'fell in love with tailoring' having come in as an assistant manager and stepping up when the tailor left on her first day.

In 2007 she set up her own business and since then her style hasn't changed much, but her constructions are always developing. 'You live and you learn every year,' she tells me. 'The constructions have probably changed more than the style.

'I'm about clean lines, elegance, so if there's excess fabric get rid of it if you don't need it, just that clean line to curve into the waistline has always been important.' It isn't just Savile Row that has been graced by her presence. Wood also has franchises in Bishop Stortford and, as of July last year, Shoreditch.

But ultimately Savile Row's reputation and Wood's skill means she has a customer base all the way across the world from the Cayman Islands to Greece and even Australia. 'I have a customer in Melbourne, he started off as my customer here, but he said there's absolutely nothing over there so I send him samples,' she says. 'He comes over every year.'

For a bespoke tailor it's not just their designs that set them apart, it's the customer experience, particularly during long fittings. 'I'm just me, I don't put on any airs and graces,' Wood says. 'I like customers to just feel relaxed and most people go "oh that was easy" – it's not going to the dentist!' r



David Evans of the Grey Fox Blog

alexandrawoodbespoke.co.uk

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IT'S A WRAP

The wrap dress is a modern classic that can be dressed up for posh occasions and dressed down for the office. You can even team it up with a vest top underneath for an unexpected pop of colour, or over a pair of jeans. This design by the Austrian label Airfield epitomises the brand's attention to detail and fit. It reworks the tropical print trend into something wearable for work too. In fact it's a no brainer!

Dress by Airfield, £275, airfield.at

MINI ME

Jane Lewis founded the Goat label in 2001, winning over high profile customers with her discreet luxury aesthetic. Fast forward to 2017 and she has just launched Kid by Goat, a new capsule collection for girls aged 7-12. The range has reworked Goat's best-selling classics.

As a working mother of three, Lewis's daily life is as varied and busy as the lives of the clientele she designs for, but it was a recent struggle to dress her own girls in a chic and stylish aesthetic that resulted in her making a 'one off' for them. Met with an overwhelming response and enquiries for dresses with a classic, timeless element of sophistication to them, Kid by Goat was born.

goatfashion.com

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SO BOHO

British jewellery designer Annie Haak specialises in designing pieces inspired by the time she spends on the magical island of Bali. Lucky her! But even if we can't all walk barefoot on the sand we can rock her boho vibe with her latest collection of necklaces featuring tassels and pom poms. These are just the thing for wearing with a pretty maxi dress or floaty top on a sunny day we think.

Necklaces, £28 each, anniehaakdesigns.co.uk

A SHOE IN

I'm looking for the perfect early summer shoe and I think I've found it... This loafer from Office has elegant proportions and is the sort of pastel neutral shade that goes with almost anything. You could pair it with a tailored short, cropped trouser or a mid-calf skirt.

£69, office.co.uk

WORDS: JANET REEDER

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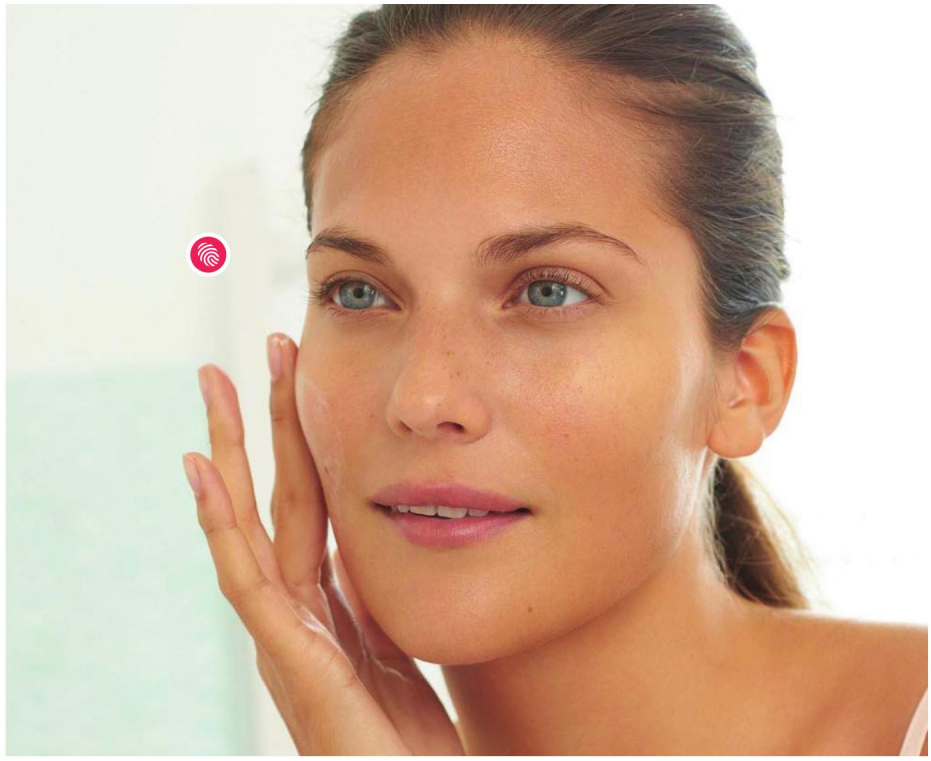
FINE VINTAGE

Parterre is a gorgeous new fragrance label created by David and Julia Bridger in collaboration with Grasse based master perfumer Jacques Chabert. Their passion for arts, gardens and fragrance has come together at the 50 acre estate at Keyneston Mill in Dorset, where they grow over 2,000 plant varieties, the largest private botanic gardens in the country dedicated solely to aromatic and scented plants used exclusively in their perfumes. All editions are numbered because each year produces a limited amount of the finest oils that form the key notes, and it is this that dictates the quantities. A finite number of bottles of each perfume is being created from each 'extraction' so, in effect, when you buy a bottle you're also investing a little in art.
Prices start at £95, from fortnumandmason.com



PREP YOUR SKIN

It's time to prepare your skin for the summer and one way of getting it into tip top condition is to invest in a great moisturiser. One of my all-time hero products is Pro Collagen Marine Cream by Elemis and now the ultra rich version, which delivers a powerful cocktail of anti-ageing ingredients, has been shown to reduce the depth of wrinkles and boost hydration levels in just 15 days. £82, elemis.com

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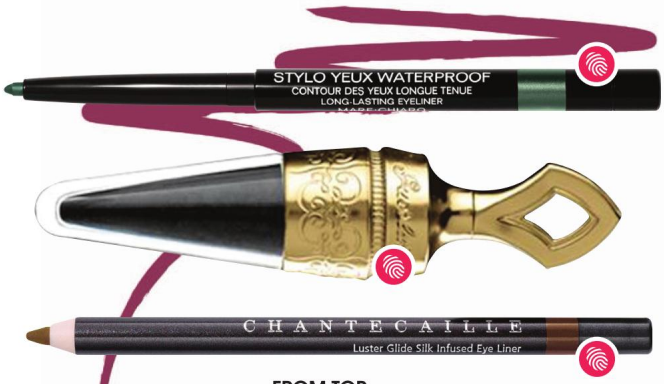


FROM TOP:
Chanel Stylo Yeux Waterproof eyeliner, *£21, chanel.com*
Guerlain terracotta khol, *£27, selfridges.com*
Luster Glide silk infused eyeliner Chantecaille, *£25, chantecaille.com*

LOOKING GOOD, FEELING FABULOUS

It's hard not to fall in love with everything Lucia Magnani stands for. The Italian biochemical analyst believes real beauty comes from nurturing good health through a balanced healthy lifestyle. She combines this ethos with her luxurious skincare range that harnesses the richness of the earth, the aroma of the sea and the power of the sun, all of which are central to achieving wellbeing from the inside out. Her glamorously packaged products include a rejuvenating eye cream, £130, Lucia Magnani daily firming hydrator, £195, and a retexturising radiance mask, £195. **harveynichols.com**

WORDS: JANET REEDER

MIE, OH MY!

Mie prefecture in Japan is famous for its lobster, beef and beautiful landscapes. Discover it before everybody else does...

Words: VICTORIA PURCELL

Ise Jingu shrine complex and a view of Ise-Shima (above)

Japan is my spirit country. I've never felt moved to find my spirit animal, but I'm pretty sure I'm allowed a spirit country. Since teaching English over there for a few years as a graduate, I just haven't been able to keep away.

Tokyo is thrilling and Kyoto is glorious, but recently I've been starting to explore lesser-frequented regions of the land the rising sun. My last trip in 2016 took me to Fukuoka in Kyushu, and earlier this year, I discovered Mie prefecture. Just south of Kyoto in the Kansai region, Mie is fantastically scenic, characterised by its higgledy-piggledy ria coastline, forests, rice terraces and cascading waterfalls.

It's a couple of hours on the bullet train from Tokyo to Nagoya, plus a couple of hours' drive to reach Ise-Shima, eastern Mie. We headed for Nemu Hotel & Resort in Shima, a sprawling, picturesque golf and spa resort by Ago Bay. The perfect antidote to city life, it has plenty of ways to unwind, from morning yoga to sunset cocktails and boat trips around the bay. There are also three onsen (hot springs), inspired by land, sea and forest, a spa and an impressive golf course devised by Damian Pascuzzo (once the president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects).

Choose a room with a view of the bay, and up the authenticity of your experience by requesting a Japanese tatami room (in place of a bed, an expertly unrolled futon will magically materialise in the evening). The Western-style rooms are spacious and contemporary, designed to make the most of the sweeping views with huge windows and unfussy furnishings.

The food is fantastic. After discovering that yuzu liqueur goes

A Premium Deluxe Suite at Nemu Hotel & Resort

marvellously with prosecco as an aperitif, we hopped on a golf buggy for a very memorable private dining experience in an elaborate marquee. Here, right in front of our eyes, Kyoto-trained Head Chef Michihiko Yoshida prepared a feast starring Mie's most famous foods; Ise lobster, abalone and melt-in-the-mouth Matsusaka Beef (one of the three 'big beefs', or wagyu, alongside Kobe and Yonezawa beef).

The hotel is ideally positioned for a number of sights. First, head for Yokoyama Observation Deck to get your bearings and take in the full view of Ago Bay and its 64 islands. The area's biggest draw by far is Ise Jingu (Ise Grand Shrine), one of Japan's holiest Shinto sites. We were blessed with perfect sightseeing weather – crisp, cool, early spring temperatures teamed with blue skies and bright sun (fitting, since the shrine is dedicated to Amaterasu, the sun goddess).

You could easily spend a day wandering both the Naiku (inner shrine) and Geku (outer shrine) complexes. We only had time to amble about Naiku, strolling over the impressive Uji bridge, passing under torii gates crafted from Japanese cypress and over the gleaming Isuzu River. You'll snake through woodland passing a number of smaller shrines before reaching the large stone steps that lead to the main shrine, Kotai Jingu.

Afterwards, follow the crowds to Oharai Machi, a long street lined with traditional buildings housing souvenir shops, restaurants and ice-cream vendors. Some of the businesses here have been serving pilgrims and tourists for several centuries, so do stop for lunch (Sushikyu serves a great unagi don, or unadon, which is essentially grilled eel served on top of rice).

Our next port of call was Toba International Hotel by Toba Bay. The wide, spacious rooms on the bayside offer Instagram-worthy panoramic views across the crystal blue waters. The hotel also has an alfresco onsen infused with pearl ingredients, so that you emerge iridescent from the hot waters.

The hotel's food is top notch. Seahorse restaurant serves up fine French cuisine, while Mondo Misaki prepares the freshest, locally sourced seafood, including that fantastic Ise lobster again, served as delicate sashimi, as well as eel sushi, jellied blow fish and simmered abalone. There's also the intimate, 10-seat Kiyoishi teppanyaki restaurant, where you can devour that exquisite Matsusaka beef straight from the chef's hotplate.

The hotel is a five-minute drive from Mikimoto Pearl Island, where you can learn all about the complex process of pearl cultivation, invented by Toba local Kokichi Mikimoto. There's also an antique jewellery exhibition, which showcases Mikimoto's elaborate pearl craft including a scale replica of Himeji Castle, made with 19,000 pearls.

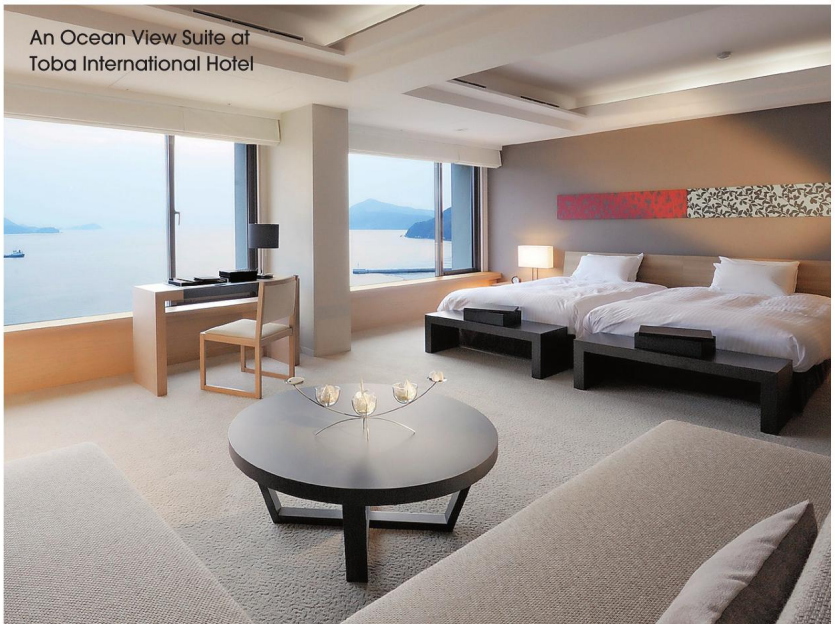
Do hang around to watch the Ama diver demonstration. The Ama divers are famous for freediving 30ft down into the sea wearing nothing but a loincloth, gathering shellfish, seaweed and, hopefully, pearls. The practice is some 2,000 years old and carried out exclusively by women (apparently we're better equipped for cold water diving because we have extra body fat to keep us warm – thanks for the observation, guys). Mikimoto later used Ama divers to look after his cultivated pearls, inextricably linking two of the region's most famous industries.

Even more impressive was a trip to Satoumian, a traditional Ama diver hut where you gather around an open charcoal fire as Ama divers grill up a feast of fresh shellfish and tell tales of life under the waves.

Mie is a marvellous place with so much more to explore, so if you're hitting the Tokyo-Kyoto tourist trail, make a little room on your itinerary for this nature-lover's paradise. r

TRIP NOTES

For room rates and bookings at Nemu Hotel & Resort, see nemuresort.com. For Toba International Hotel, see tobahotel.co.jp. Fly BA Club World direct from Heathrow to Tokyo Haneda Airport for £2,694 (based on a 7-night return journey). Find out more about Ise-Shima at iseshima-kanko.jp



An Ocean View Suite at Toba International Hotel

PHOTOGRAPHY © JNTO, NEMU HOTEL & RESORT AND TOBA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

POSTCARDS *from the Past*

Regent's Park is marking the centenary of the First World War by inviting people to discover its past life as a postal depot

Words FAY WATSON

When we think of the First World War, images of soldiers in mud-soaked trenches is often the first thing that spring to mind. The impact of the war at home, especially in our local communities, is often forgotten in lieu of more collective histories of the period, influenced by school curriculums, war poetry and Hollywood films.

As such, many people are unaware of the crucial role played by Regent's Park in WW1 as the home to a five-acre postal depot, which sent mail all around the Western Front.

To celebrate this forgotten history, The Royal Parks Guild and charity are hosting an interactive recreation of the depot on Saturday 12 and 19 May. The pop-up mail sorting office will be open to the public so they can experience what it was like to work in an office that processed over two billion letters and 140 million parcels during the war.

'It's pretty phenomenal. It was an absolutely massive feat of organisation and it's sort of amazing when you think about the level of information they had there in The Regent's Park,' Eleanor Harding, WW1 Project Officer at The Royal Parks charity tells me. 'They basically knew where all of the troops were all of the time, which is information that was absolutely valuable.'

There's actually a story in there for absolutely everyone

As well as sorting vast amounts of post, the process was so efficient that it is thought that someone could send a letter at 7pm on a Wednesday and it would be with the soldier at 7pm on a Thursday.

One of the hopes of the exhibition is that it will teach the importance that letters held in this period to a younger generation who are using the form less and less.

Harding explains: 'When I think about what it would have been like sitting for hours awake at night with these shells going off, freezing cold, wet feet, either bored or terrified and not to be able to scroll through Twitter or WhatsApp with a friend or share any kind of experience, I can't imagine how isolating it would have been.'

She adds: 'Lots of the letters that we have going to and from families and the people who were out there fighting are all about how the letters are a complete lifeline.'

And more than just understanding the soldiers' experience, the exhibition allows families to learn more about the over 2,500 people who worked at the depot. There will be actors on hand to teach children about the jobs that would have been done and the kind of people working there, who were mostly women and those who had been injured or judged not fit to fight.

'When you ask people what

PHOTOS: © ROYAL MAIL GROUP LTD, COURTESY OF THE POSTAL MUSEUM

Men moving parcels in wicker baskets at the Home Depot during the First World War

they think of when they think of the First World War, everyone thinks of the mud and the trenches, the blood and the bombs and the gas – and it's all true – but actually at the start of the First World War there were 46 million people in the UK, of those 6 million went off to war to fight and so 40 million are still in the UK contributing hugely, with their lives being changed,' Harding explains.

'If you're not a young white British man or boy, it may be quite hard for you to identify with the people you hear about in the history of the First World War and to understand what the relevance is.

'But if you start looking at it from a Home Front perspective and start populating it with the characters who were really there, lots of women, lots of people who went away and were injured, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues, there's actually a story in there for absolutely everyone – you can definitely see yourself in the First World War.'

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Royal Parks are also running events for local schools alongside the public open days. They'll be running an art project in schools, where children will be drawing postcards of the depot, and the charity will be hosting trips to a model allotment in the park to learn about how people grew their own food.

Whether you're educating your kids or just keen to find more about such an iconic park, the pop-up exhibition is sure to be a fascinating opportunity to step into the shoes of those living a century ago. r

The interactive pop-up will host two free public events on 12 and 19 May. Find out more at royalparks.org.uk

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HEAR ITS ROAR

A new comic opera for primary schools aims to teach a new generation about global issues and the threats faced by the world's lions and donkeys

Words OWEN JONES

Primary school pupils across the UK are being given the chance to take part in the first ever performances of a new comic opera this summer. *One of Our Lions is Missing!* describes the adventures of a lion and a donkey living in a monastery and has been written by leading young British composer James Olsen.

It's part of a project called #lionopera which involves animal charities The Donkey Sanctuary, LionAid and the Born Free Foundation. As well as telling a comic tale, the opera delivers a wider message, raising awareness about global issues and threats faced by donkeys and lions.

James Olsen, composer and founder of publishers Olsen Verlag, says: 'With arts education coming under increasing pressure today, we need to find imaginative new ways of giving youngsters high quality musical and theatrical experiences, which is why I'm so delighted that we can offer this opportunity to schools free of charge.

'I'm also thrilled to be working with our three partner charities,' he continues. 'Operas tend only to benefit humans, so it would be an honour if my work can help raise awareness of the threats which lions and donkeys face today, and inspire young people to take an interest in conservation.'

Olsen Verlag will provide a range of digital materials so the operas can be performed by schools with little or no musical capability. Carl Wholey, national schools education manager at The Donkey Sanctuary, which has its international headquarters in Devon, welcomes the opportunity to create awareness and empathy for animals in a fun and engaging way. 'The importance of young people understanding the ongoing needs of animals cannot be overstated,' he stresses.

'These are the policy makers and animal carers of the future. With the donkey in the opera being the "clever one", this is another step to breaking down stereotypes and helping elevate the perceived status of donkeys.'

An education pack for schools not only covers sections of the science National Curriculum, but also provides an opportunity for children to explore their views on animals and the global issues that threaten them.

The founders of the Born Free Foundation, Virginia McKenna and Will Travers, say #lionopera will help bring their message of compassionate conservation to a new generation.

'It will give young minds the chance to express themselves in a way that brings them closer to a deeper understanding of and appreciation for both domestic and wild animals.

'They say that children are the future and by encouraging young hearts and minds to care we are helping ensure that the future is in good hands.' r

Schools are being invited to participate in the first performances of *One of Our Lions is Missing!* free of charge, but are encouraged to raise funds to support The Donkey Sanctuary, Born Free, LionAid and the project itself. For further information on the project visit olsenverlag.com/lionopera

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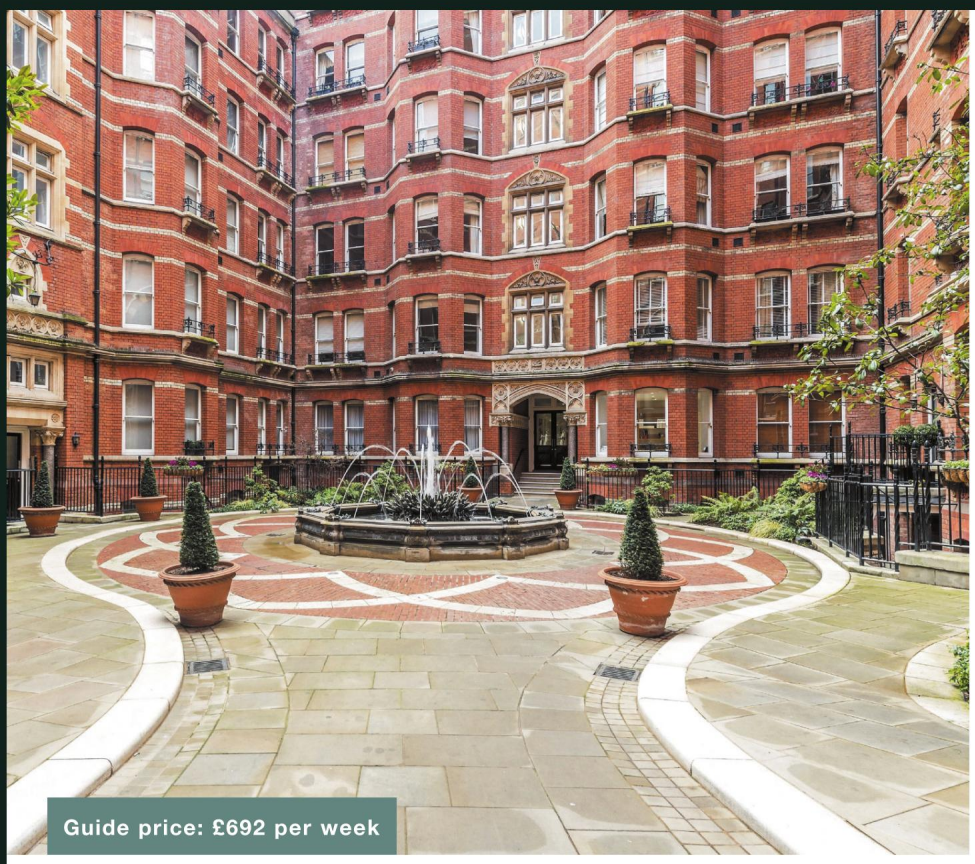

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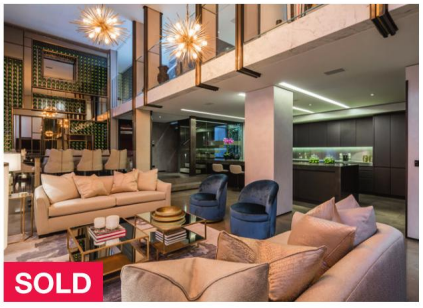

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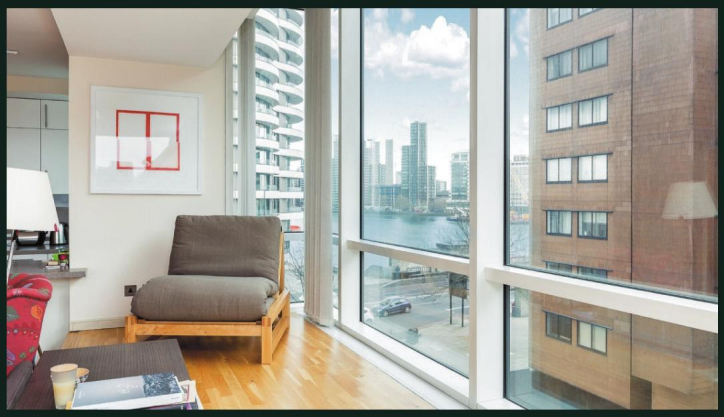

The Panoramic, Pimlico SW1V

Superb property in Pimlico benefiting from impressive open-plan living

A delightfully bright and spacious apartment in this very desirable portered building with views of the River Thames. This contemporary apartment is well presented in a modern style with wooden flooring and also includes a secure parking space. The Panoramic is ideally located for Pimlico tube station and the shops and amenities in Pimlico Green, Victoria, Belgravia and Sloane Square. This sought after building enjoys an exceptional concierge service and this flat has a share in the management company that owns the head lease. Bedroom, bathroom, concierge, parking. EPC: C. Approximately 76 sq m (818 sq ft).

Leasehold: approximately 106 years remaining

Guide price: £895,000

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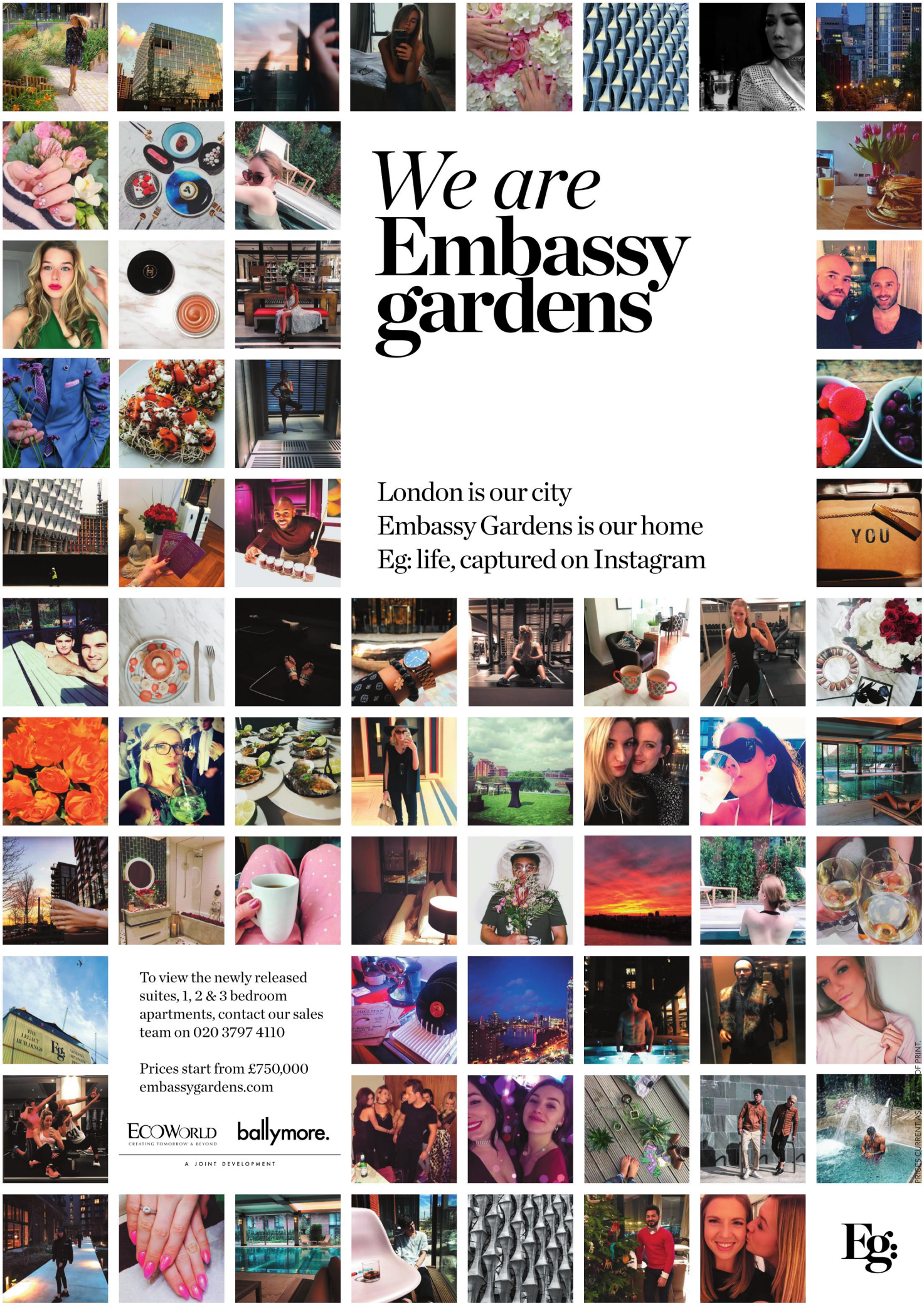

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Property of the month

Chesterfield Hill, W1J

£10,750,000

Centrally located in Mayfair and close to the picturesque Mount Street Garden, this property is well situated for Mayfair's world class restaurants, as well as nearby Mount Street which is famed for its luxury boutiques.

This stunning freehold, period townhouse has been comprehensively refurbished, incorporating luxurious detailing and technology including programmable lighting, air conditioning, Control 4 audio/visual system and a Thyssen Krupp lift. There is a grand entrance hall that leads to the elegant open plan kitchen/dining room, which in turns opens onto the patio garden. The elegant first floor drawing room opens onto the terrace, while the master bedroom suite occupies the whole of the second floor. There are four further bedrooms upstairs, as well as a staff suite on the lower ground floor.

For more information contact Savills Mayfair & St James's on 020 7578 5100

PROPERTY *NEWS*

The best seat in the house and global inspiration

Iconic setting

On 14 April, leading housebuilder St Edward launched its prestigious new address, 9 Millbank, a striking development on the banks of the River Thames in the heart of historic Westminster. 9 Millbank occupies a unique and highly coveted position that is steeped in history and surrounded by London's most iconic landmarks including the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey.

Due to complete in 2022, the development will comprise luxurious apartments and penthouses across two buildings elegantly connected by a delightfully landscaped inner courtyard. The first building to launch at 9 Millbank is Millbank Quarter in April 2018. Millbank Quarter has been uniquely designed to complement the historical importance of its surroundings and the local architecture. An exciting new build development, it combines classical heritage with impressive contemporary interiors, created by renowned designers, Goddard Littlefair. A landscaped private internal courtyard featuring lush green plants and seating areas also provide a peaceful retreat for residents.

Homes at Millbank Quarter start from £999,950. For more details, call 0207 118 7799

Way of the world

Hampstead's most exclusive development, Buxmead, has created a range of show apartments tailored for specific nationalities not seen in a UK scheme before. Inspired by its international buyers, the in-house interior team at Harrison Varma, the leading boutique developer behind this award-winning development, has dressed six apartments showcasing different interior styles, each with a specific nationality in mind.

Marisa Varma, Head of Design at Harrison Varma, comments: 'Our buyers come from around the world. At Buxmead we have residents from Kazakhstan, South Africa, Russia, Iran and the UK. From working with them we have found that most of our international buyers are looking for a ready-made solution.' The show apartments include; The Rosewood Apartment (European), The Garden Apartment (Middle Eastern), The Walnut Apartment (Russian) and The Regency Apartment (Asian). While some interiors are formal and traditional, others are contemporary and relaxed.

Prices start from £6.9m for a three-bedroom apartment. For more details visit buxmead.co.uk / harrisonvarma.co.uk or call 020 88883 6600

Royal opportunity

Harrods Estates is delighted to offer to the market a rare opportunity to purchase a 12-seat Grand Tier Box at the world famous Royal Albert Hall. This particular Grand Tier Box has 12 seats, rather than the more usual 10, and places guests in close proximity to The Royal Box, providing an enviable view of many of the world's most anticipated music concerts and events: in 2017 the Grade I listed Royal Albert Hall hosted over 390 shows and events.

In purchasing the box, the owner will automatically receive a membership to the Corporation of the Halls of Arts and Science. The membership was granted to the individuals who put up the capital to fund the building of the hall in the 1860s, who then acquired seats in return for governing the Hall for the nation's benefit. As a member, the owner of the Box will be responsible for such duties as electing the Council and the Hall's President, approving the level of the annual contribution, and ensuring that the traditions of the Corporation are upheld.

This is only the second Grand Tier Box to have been made available through Harrods Estates in almost a decade and is offered for sale leasehold (848 years unexpired). Available exclusively through Harrods Estates, offers in excess of £3,000,000 are invited. For further information please contact Jake Irwin-Brown on 020 3650 4600 or by email at jake.irwin-brown@harrodsestates.com or visit www.harrodsestates.com

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WINCHESTER STREET, SW1V

An apartment of approx. 645 sq ft with a private patio and the potential to extend (STPP), located 0.4 miles from Pimlico Underground Station and 0.7 miles from Victoria Station.

Reception room • Dining room • Kitchen • Bedroom • Bathroom • Study • Patio • EPC rating C

£650,000 SHARE OF FREEHOLD

WARWICK SQUARE, SW1V

An two bedroom apartment on Warwick Square with access to the private gardens, located 0.4 miles from Victoria Station and 0.1 miles from local amenities of Warwick Way.

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SUTHERLAND STREET, SW1V

A newly decorated upper maisonette of approx. 849 sq ft, set over two floors in a stucco fronted house, located 0.5 miles from Pimlico Underground Station.
Open-plan kitchen/reception room • 2 Double bedrooms • Bathroom • Wooden floors • New appliances • EPC rating D

£600 PER WEEK (*FEES APPLY)

ALDERNEY STREET, SW1V

A split-level apartment of approx. 669 sq ft with character features, located 0.4 miles from Pimlico Underground Station and 0.6 miles from Victoria Station.
Reception room • Kitchen/dining room • 2 Double bedrooms • Bathroom • Balcony • EPC rating D

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ROOMS WITH A VIEW

Whatever your budget you can buy or rent a room with a spectacular vista

Words FIONA BRANDHORST

A world-class city like London delivers breath-taking cityscapes of iconic buildings, urban parks and the River Thames. Who wouldn't want to wake up to a captivating vista of the capital?

Hyde Park is without doubt London's most famous green space, equal in stature to Central Park in New York and Barcelona's Park Güell. So says Mohammed I Nouri, Managing Director of Meritas Real Estate, developer of Paddington Gardens. 'Buildings high enough to permit a view over Hyde Park are few and far between and the closer you are the more you will pay for the privilege,' he explains. 'All the apartments face south at Paddington Gardens so residents get an amazing view of Hyde Park, which is increasingly used for largescale events and concerts.' Four towers house the 335 apartments priced from £825,000.

Views do not directly make a property more expensive explains Nina Coulter, Director London Residential Development Sales for Savills. 'The luxury development Palace View overlooks the Houses of Parliament, which already commands a premium. It's the story that gives the properties personality.' Balconies and year-round winter gardens add to the charm. Prices from £810,000.

International buyers in Knightsbridge often request a view of their favourite store Harrods. 'Many like to be able to see it from their apartment, but to be close by is usually enough,' says Craig Tonkin, Sales Director at Dexters Knightsbridge & South Kensington. However, this enclave of prime London is also home to architecturally beautiful museums including the Victoria & Albert.

'Knowing that your property will always have incredible views overlooking a prestigious building gives it status and investment potential,' adds Tonkin. Dexters is marketing a one-bedroom apartment with a balcony, high ceilings and a separate study/office room, right opposite the V&A on Thurloe Place for £1.395m.

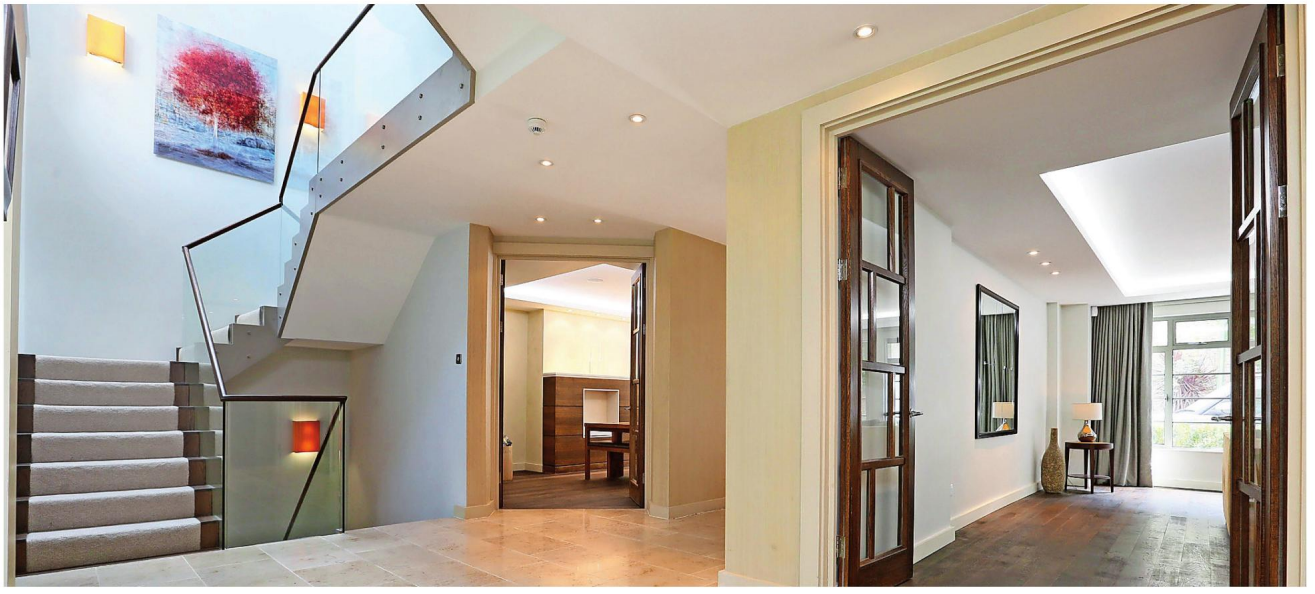
Louis Aldred, Sales and Marketing Director for Berkeley Homes, believes buyers are increasingly willing to pay the price for a view especially when it includes the historic trio of Tower Bridge, the River Thames and the Tower of London. 'At Cambridge House, every apartment offers prime, uninterrupted river-facing views towards Tower Bridge.' A plush two bedroom, high-specification apartment at One Tower Bridge is for sale for £4.075m.

A large number of apartments within The Dumont on Albert Embankment also by Berkeley Homes benefit from both river and heritage building outlooks with prices from £681,000.

'A view can lead to large price differences within a building for the same apartment with or without that landmark view,' says Alex Finch, Director Residential Development at JLL.

The beauty of a river that meanders for miles through a city is that the views change dramatically. Down river at Greenwich Millennium Village there are striking views north towards Canary Wharf. Apartments start from £414,995. Certainly worth a look.

MAIN: Palace View
TOP: Landmark Place
ABOVE: Landmark Place
LEFT: Thurloe Place



REACHING THE HIGH NOTES

Savills lists the former Holland Park home of singer, Dusty Springfield

A modern Art Deco style house in London's W8, which features a blue plaque for singer Dusty Springfield, is now for sale through Savills Kensington for £14m. Situated on the highly sought after Aubrey Walk, the ten-year-old 7,200 sq ft property is the result of a coming together of two terraced homes to create one unique broad fronted house.

Arranged over five storeys, bedroom accommodation at Aubrey Walk comprises several suites, while the top floor is given over to a master suite with a sitting room, dressing room, bedroom, bathroom and direct access to a delightful roof terrace offering far reaching south facing views. Meanwhile the ground floor is the largest of the five floors and incorporates a large entrance hall, dining room, principal reception room and light-filled kitchen/breakfast/family room that leads out onto the garden.

Situated on the lower ground is a fitness and leisure complex with 35ft swimming pool, sauna, gym and party room, the perfect entertaining space.

Originally granted a blue plaque in 2001 to commemorate Dusty Springfield's tenure at the property from 1968-1972, in 2011 a new plaque was installed and unveiled by Bee Gees star Robin Gibb, who described the star as 'probably the greatest female popular singer in the modern pop rock era'. Springfield, who passed away in 1999, was both a singer and record producer with a career that spanned some 40 years. She made her first foray into the music scene in the 1950s and was one of the icons associated with the Swinging Sixties. At her peak, she was one of the most successful British female performers with six top 20 singles on the United States Billboard Hot 100 and 16 on the United Kingdom Singles Chart from 1963 to 1989. She is a member of both the US Rock and Roll and UK Music Halls of Fame. She received an OBE in January 1999.

Of the sale, Kit Allen, Director of Savills Kensington, says: 'Aubrey Walk is a very special

property in one of west London's most sought-after neighbourhoods. As the former home of legendary singer, Dusty Springfield, it brings together a sense of history and cultural importance with the architectural merits of a home created to reflect Art Deco design principles. Its modern specification, cleverly designed layout and outside space makes it likely that the house will appeal to a future buyer seeking a well-proportioned family home with good transport links, excellent schooling and lifestyle amenities all within a short distance.' r

For more information call Savills Kensington on 020 7535 3300

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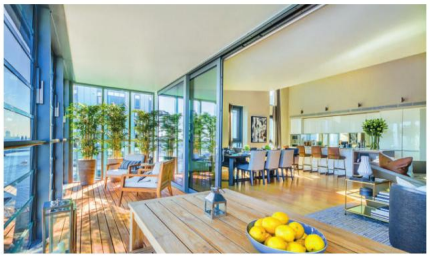

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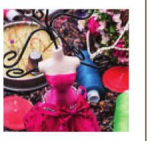
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